FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-079
Tuesday
25 April 1995

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-079* CONTENTS *25 April 1995*

**NOTICE TO READERS:**An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Shahor Meets With PA's Sha'th *[Jerusalem Radio]* ........ 1

### Islamic Affairs

Islamic Ulema Conference Issues Recommendations *[Beirut Radio]* ........ 1
Islamist Leader Calls For Unified Islam *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 17 Apr]* ........ 1

### Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Dialogue Among Factions, Iranian Role *[AL-NAHAR 23 Apr]* ........ 3
'Arafat Expresses 'Anger' at Hamas-U.S. Meeting *[DAVAR 24 Apr]* ........ 3
'Urayqat on Pilgrims, Dialogue With Opponents *[Cairo International]* ........ 4
PA Secretary on Progress in Talks With Islamic Jihad *[Jerusalem Radio]* ........ 5
Islamic Jihad 'Seriously Studying' PA's Demands *[Jericho VOP]* ........ 5
    Leader Rejects Agreements With PA *[VOL]* ........ 5
Al-Qassam: Jihad To Continue Until End of Occupation *[AL-WATAN 20 Apr]* ........ 6
Hamas Statement Attacks Authority Practices *[AL-MAJD 24 Apr]* ........ 6
Hamas Spokesman Denies 'Formal' Dialogue With PA *[Tehran International]* ........ 7
Police Release 20 Arrested After Suicide Bombings *[AFP]* ........ 8
Hamas Activists Sentenced for Murdering 'Collaborator' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ........ 9
Planning, Finance Ministers Leave for Aid Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* ........ 9

## ARAB AFRICA

### Algeria

Report on Arrest of FIS Leader's Brother Denied *[Paris International]* ........ 10
SDAR Envoy Briefs TNC Speaker on Western Sahara *[Algiers Radio]* ........ 10
Contract Signed To Supply Electricity to Morocco *[Algiers Radio]* ........ 10
Parties Hail Agreement To End School Boycott *[Algiers Radio]* ........ 10

### Egypt

Mubarak Speech Highlights Peace, Nuclear Moves *[Cairo Radio]* ........ 10
Ministry Source Denies Breaking Pledges on NPT *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Apr]* ........ 12
Minister Discloses Budget Allocations, Resources *[MENA]* ........ 12
Al-Baz Advocates Setting Up Arab Market *[MENA]* ........ 12
Eighty Released Fishermen Return From Eritrea *[MENA]* ........ 13
Reshaping International Economic Ties Viewed *[London al-HAWADITH 10 Feb]* ........ 13
Mechanisms for Economic Growth in South Considered *[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 12 Feb]* ........ 14

### Libya

Reportage on Salvation Front Conference in Atlanta ........ 16
    Conference Proceedings Detailed *[London AL-HAYAH 19 Apr]* ........ 16
    Continuation of Military Option Supported *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Apr]* ........ 16

**Sudan**

Statement Issued on Uganda's Severing of Ties *[SUNA]* .......... 17

**Tunisia**

Ben Ali Gives Speech at Seminar on Tolerance *[Tunis Radio]* .......... 18
Ben Ali Meets With President of Cote D'Ivoire *[Tunis Radio]* .......... 18
Condemnation of Rwandan Violence Issued *[Tunis Radio]* .......... 19

**ARABIAN PENINSULA**

**Bahrain**

Prime Minister Receives Note From Jordan Counterpart *[WAKH]* .......... 20

**Kuwait**

Opposition Figure Comments on Political Scene *[HAMSHAHRI 16 Apr]* .......... 20

**Saudi Arabia**

Arab Exoneration Should Make U.S. Review Priorities *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Apr]* .......... 21

**United Arab Emirates**

Zayid, Christopher View Ties, Developments Over Phone *[WAKH]* .......... 22
Heir Apparent Views Dubayy, Regional Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Apr]* .......... 22
Cabinet Approves Execution of Drug Dealers, Smugglers *[WAKH]* .......... 24

**Yemen**

Al-Iryani Receives South Korean, British Envoys *[Sanaa Radio]* .......... 24
Dialogue Not Aimed at Socialist Return to Power *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Apr]* .......... 24

**IRAQ**

National Assembly 'Unanimously' Rejects 986 *[INA]* .......... 25
  Foreign Minister Addresses Session *[INA]* .......... 26
  Session Adjourns *[INA]* .......... 27
UN Envoy al-Zahawi Calls NPT 'Serious Default' *[INA]* .......... 27
Russian Energy Minister Pays Official Visit .......... 28
  Says Iraq Has Honored All Commitments *[INA]* .......... 28
  Says Visit To Produce 'Huge Project' *[INA]* .......... 28
  Presents Gifts to Saddam *[INA]* .......... 28
  Views Future Oil Cooperation *[INA]* .......... 29
  Meets Minister on 'Joint Interests' *[INA]* .......... 29
  Discusses Cooperation With 'Aziz *[INA]* .......... 29
Daily Praises 'Redoubling' of Oil Operations *[AL-QADISIYAH 15 Apr]* .......... 29
Minister Announces Inauguration of More Projects *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Apr]* .......... 30
Turkish Delegation Arrives, To Meet Saddam *[AFP]* .......... 31
Turkey Said To Withdraw Over Half Remaining Forces *[AFP]* .......... 31
Paper Notes 'Contradictions' in Christopher Remarks *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Apr]* .......... 31
Saudi, Kuwaiti Support to Allied Planes Protested *[INA]* .......... 32

**ISRAEL**

Saudi Arabia Agrees to Conditions on Pilgrims *[Jerusalem Radio]* .......... 33
Jordan Said Seeking To Include Iraq in Projects *[HA'ARETZ 24 Apr]* .......... 33
Jordanian Envoy Said To Meet With PA Officials *[Jerusalem Radio]* .......... 33

- Harish Recalls Industrial Delegation to Morocco *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Apr]* 33
  - Accuses Morocco of 'Political Boycott' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Apr]* 34
- Australian Defense Minister Makes First Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Ministers Present Views of Labor Stand on Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- IDF Estimates Size of 'Disputed' Border Area *[HA'ARETZ 24 Apr]* 34
- IDF Reportedly Set To Begin West Bank Evacuation *[MA'ARIV 25 Apr]* 35
- IDF Announces Capture of 'Terrorist' Squad *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 35
  - Operations of Squad Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
- Hamas Detainee Dies Following Interrogation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
- Press Reports Details on Ofeq-3 Satellite *[FBIS Media Note]* 36
- Joint Jewish-Arab Leftist Front May Run for Knesset *[DAVAR 23 Apr]* 37
- MA'ARIV Publisher Arrested in Wire-Tapping Case *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Apr]* 37
  - Court Remands Publisher for 7 Days *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Apr]* 38
  - YEDI'OT AHARONOT Editor Detained *[HA'ARETZ 25 Apr]* 38

## JORDAN

- Israel's Peres Attends Symposium, Meets Officials 39
  - Views Peace Process With Crown Prince *[Amman Radio]* 39
  - Confers With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 39
  - Views Development of Rift Valley *[Amman Radio]* 39
  - Holds News Conference *[AL-DUSTUR 25 Apr]* 39
  - Reiterates 'No Conditions' for Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
  - Chats With Citizens *[Amman TV]* 40

## LEBANON

- Buwayz on Peace Process, NPT, Domestic Scene *[London AL-WASAT 3-9 Apr]* 41
- Minister Criticizes U.S., Israeli Pressure *[Beirut Radio]* 43
- Further Reportage on Oklahoma City Bombing 43
  - U.S. Attitudes Toward Arabs Assailed *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Apr]* 43
  - Islamic Deputy Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 43
  - Hizballah: Lebanon Safer Than U.S. *[VOL]* 43
- Hizballah Denies Mughniyah on Board Plane *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Apr]* 44

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

- Government Troops Reportedly Captured by Taleban *[Message of Freedom]* 45
- Roads Into Kabul Blocked by Taleban *[Tehran Radio]* 45
- Taleban Reportedly Ready To Establish Government *[Message of Freedom]* 45
- Parties Propose Anti-Rabbani Alliance *[IRNA]* 45

### India

- Editorials View U.S. Secretary Rubin's Visit 45
  - 'Quantum Jump' in Ties Predicted *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 19 Apr]* 45
  - Need 'To Stop Squabbling' Supported *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 20 Apr]* 46
- Reportage, Commentary on Iranian Delegation Visit 46
  - Velayati Comments on Ties *[IRNA]* 46
  - Minister Offers Help To Rebuild Mosque *[IRNA]* 47
  - Economic Issues Seen as Key to Ties *[THE ASIAN AGE 20 Apr]* 47
  - Ties May Benefit U.S. *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 22 Apr]* 47

### Iran

- Anniversary of U.S. Tabas Operation Noted 48
  - Convoy Leaves for Tabas *[Tehran TV]* 48
  - Majles Speaker Addresses Rally *[Tehran TV]* 48
  - Commentary on 'Defeat' of U.S. Military *[Tehran Radio]* 48

Rafsanjani's Statement on U.S. 'Threats' Viewed *[SALAM 17 Apr]* ........ 49
  Further on Rafsanjani's Statement *[SALAM 18 Apr]* ........ 50
'Serious Threat' To U.S. Regional Policies Viewed *[RESALAT 13 Apr]* ........ 51
Commentary Discusses Turkey's Incursion Into Iraq *[TEHRAN TIMES 13 Apr]* ........ 52
New Developments on Managing Hospitals Detailed *[SALAM 15 Mar]* ........ 53
Statement on Dismantling of Satellite Dishes *[Tehran Radio]* ........ 55
  Over 90 Percent Dismantled *[Tehran Radio]* ........ 55
  Paper Comments on Dismantling *[IRNA]* ........ 56

**Pakistan**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Zia Arrives for Visit *[Islamabad International]* ........ 56
  Holds Talks With Bhutto, Leghari *[Islamabad Radio]* ........ 56
  Attends Banquet With Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* ........ 57
Editorial Criticizes Rafsanjani Remarks on Kashmir *[JANG 20 Apr]* ........ 57
Commentary Downplays Threat From Iran-India Ties *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 23 Apr]* .... 58

## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Israel's Shahor Meets With PA's Sha'th

*TA2404044095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli coordinator of activities in the territories, Major General Oren Shahor, met last night with Palestinian Authority [PA] official Nabil Sha'th. The session was aimed at laying the groundwork for a meeting of the supreme coordination committee between Israel and the Palestinians, due to convene soon in Cairo. Last night's discussion included such subjects as improving the economic situation in the Gaza Strip and making it easier to cross at Rafah and the Allenby Bridge.

The Passover closure was lifted at midnight, and 26,000 Palestinian laborers from the territories are permitted this morning to work again in Israel. The closure was in effect for 10 days.

## Islamic Affairs

### Islamic Ulema Conference Issues Recommendations

*NC2404084895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic ulema conference concluded its work in Beirut yesterday. The conference discussed the Palestinian issue and made recommendations that all the capitulationist agreements and settlement treaties between the Zionist enemy and certain Arab parties be rejected because these agreements have no legal grounds and were not authorized by the Arab peoples. The conference said that resistance in southern Lebanon, the western al-Biqa, and Palestine is a legitimate right and duty, and it called for support for the resistance with all available means.

The conference has endorsed the Muslim ulema's fatwa emphasizing the prohibition on conceding Muslim land in Jerusalem, Palestine, or elsewhere. It condemned the so-called self-government's practices and acts of aggression against the citizens' rights and its repressive measures against the mujahidin and mosque preachers.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Muslim ulema conference stressed the need to sidestep the sectarian barriers that have been the main reason for the setbacks in Lebanon. It stressed complete adherence to Islamic identity and concern for exercising the right to free expression and to work. It noted the deteriorating economic situation and difficulties besetting the various segments of the people while the government and key figures are preoccupied with the presidential term amid the complete absence of real economic and development plans.

The conference declared its support for the oppressed Islamic peoples. It stressed that the U.S. pressure on the Islamic states, particularly Syria, Iran, and Pakistan, to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty while keeping silent about Israel's possession of nuclear potential constitutes a flagrant bias toward the Zionist entity.

On the West's stance on Islam, the conference noted that the United States and certain Western nations are seeking to inspire the Western public with feelings of hostility toward Islam and Muslims as part of the conventional policy of creating an adversary in order to assert U.S. domination. The conference called on the Islamic organizations in the West to continue be open to civilized dialogues and positive interactions with the Islamic community. It called on the Western nations to respect human rights and their Islamic communities' traditions. It condemned the U.S. and Western bias toward the Zionist entity and their flagrant hostility to any country that clings to Islam.

### Islamist Leader Calls For Unified Islam

*AU1804153795 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Apr 95 pp 148, 150*

[Interview with Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese Islamists, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Coca-Cola Culture at Its End"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. al-Turabi, the Islamic People's Conference, which you founded, calls on the world's Muslims to "resist the aggression of the West." Do you expect a cultural fight, a violent confrontation between the Islamic East and the Christian West?

[Al-Turabi] We are not looking for conflict but reach out to everyone who accepts us Muslims as equal partners. We are striving for peace, not for war.

[DER SPIEGEL] Then why the harsh attacks against the "modern crusaders"?

[Al-Turabi] The memories of the attacks of the crusaders logically comes up when the NATO secretary general and the U.S. defense secretary make the racist claim that, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the communist threat, Islam is the danger of tomorrow.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is this not true to a certain extent? In the Islamic world the militant nature of radical groups is rising alarmingly.

[Al-Turabi] Taking offense at the fact that we no longer let ourselves be humiliated and that we want to put an end to the centuries of unjust dictates by European and U.S. colonists shows imperialistic arrogance. If, at the same time, the Islamic world sees how Christian Europe leaves the Muslims in Bosnia to their fate and how barbarically the Russians massacre the Muslim people of Chechnya, these fascistic inciting tirades seem very strange.

[DER SPIEGEL] So it is true: The Muslims are preparing for a new world conflagration?

[Al-Turabi] Any responsible Muslim leader has the duty of protecting the 'Umma, the world community of believers, from danger. This was one of the reasons for convening the Islamic international conference in Khartoum.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even governments of Islamic states called the congress a summit of terrorists.

[Al-Turabi] This is an absurd defamation from rulers, who smell a terrorist putsch attempt in any effort by the oppressed masses to express their Islamic feelings.

[DER SPIEGEL] Some of the groups you invited openly admit that they want to overthrow the governments in their home countries.

[Al-Turabi] The best example is Algeria. There pious Muslims are fighting against government and military with weapons in their hands. Nevertheless, even in the West voices are rising that call for a dialogue with these alleged terrorists.

[DER SPIEGEL] Algerian Islamists are killing women, children, and innocent foreigners; in Lebanon the pro-Iranian militant organization Hizballah kept foreign hostages prisoner under miserable conditions for years. Do you express solidarity with their goals and methods?

[Al-Turabi] Slowly: First of all, I categorically condemn attacks on innocent civilians. I also know that the leading bodies of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria and of the Hizballah in Lebanon also reject such excesses.

[DER SPIEGEL] Cairo accuses you of granting refuge to terrorists who shoot at foreign tourists in Egypt.

[Al-Turabi] I invite our Egyptian friends to convince themselves on site that these accusations are completely unfounded.

[DER SPIEGEL] There have long been pan-Islamic institutions. So far, however, any attempt to unite the Islamic world has failed. How do you want to achieve this?

[Al-Turabi] It is new that in Khartoum we let the Islamic peoples have their say for the first time. So far, the government Islam ordered by the state has not led to progress, because many rulers ally themselves with the enemies of Islam out of greed for profit. We must put an end to the traditionalists, who just warm up the old things from yesterday. We need a new understanding of Islam and, above all, we want to eradicate the internal Islamic differences which separated us in the past.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you striving for a large Islamic empire, similar to the Muslim Brotherhood, which wants to resurrect the Caliphate?

[Al-Turabi] The Islamic People's Congress has resolved to bring the Islamic world together again. The idea of the national state has become old-fashioned in the Arab countries and also in other parts of the Islamic world. It had been forced on us by the colonial powers anyway.

[DER SPIEGEL] The rivalries and conflicts among Arab and Islamic countries prove the opposite. Iraq and Iran were at war for eight years.

[Al-Turabi] These are regrettable exceptions. For real Muslims it is not the national passport that is important but the Islamic identity. This holds us together more strongly than anything else.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Islamic world is farther away from a community than Europe, where borders are abolished and a political union is planned.

[Al-Turabi] The West will be surprised how quickly the Muslims' accumulated dreams will become reality. The unstoppable strengthening of Israel will lead to a new world order. The supremacy of the United States' Coca-Cola culture is coming to an end.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what is the new Islamic order supposed to be like?

[Al-Turabi] More and more Muslims call for founding an Islamic United Nations, because the United Nations nowadays serves the five monopoly powers United States, Russia, China, France, and Great Britain. These states are steering the UN Security Council at their discretion. I pity UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, whose hands are tied because of the crazy structure of the international organization; the veto of one single permanent member of the Security Council is sufficient to paralyze the 185-nation organization. The fiasco in Somalia and in Bosnia speaks for itself. Therefore, the United Nations is not suitable for the Islamic world.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are human rights also a Western construct that you reject?

[Al-Turabi] The West flogs human rights only when it suits them. Islam and human rights are certainly compatible. However, for us Muslims they are not sufficient in their current form, which is characterized by the West. Our cultural heritage must be taken into consideration, in particular the Sharia, the Islamic legal system derived from the Koran.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Sharia is not interpreted in a unified manner. Should thieves have their hands and feet hacked off? Do those defecting from the faith deserve death?

[Al-Turabi] This kind of punishment is not applied in Sudan nowadays, because our interpretation of the Sharia is more progressive than in other places in the Islamic world. At our Islamic People's Conference there was no one who wanted to deny women the right to public functions, such as the office of head of state or prime minister.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are dreaming of the world of tomorrow. At present Sudan continues to wage its permanent war against Christian and animistic black rebels in the south. This conflict is ruining your country instead of making it the beacon of Islam.

[Al-Turabi] As long as Israel and the United States support the rebels, the fighting will continue.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat on Dialogue Among Factions, Iranian Role

*TA2404140495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Apr 95 pp 1, 7*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, WAFA—The cabinet held its weekly session yesterday morning under the chairmanship of President 'Arafat.

After the meeting, Mr. Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the secretary general of the presidency, told WAFA that the cabinet discussed several issues on its agenda. The president presented a detailed report on the security situation in the Authority's areas. He affirmed the stabilization of the security situation in general and rejected allegations by the media and some individuals who are trying to distort the facts in order to hinder the development plan in the Authority's areas and achieve narrow goals.

The president affirmed that the security forces have detained some drug traffickers who in most cases are also arms traders. A number of these traffickers admitted to giving extortion money to some groups in the Palestinian arena who are using this money to finance their attempts to threaten the PLO's commitments to the peace process.

In his report, the president also referred to the economic losses suffered by our people as a result of the rejected acts on all levels carried out by those groups.

The president noted that this situation has caused widespread popular resentment against those who have tried to harm the security of the homeland, the citizens, and their forces and undermine the Authority's commitments and the masses' vital interests.

The president hoped that all forces and factions that have quickly engaged in a dialogue and whose actions were one of the causes of the current economic situation will have sincere intentions and inclinations—for the sake of God and the interest of the Palestinian people and homeland, not for the sake of gaining time and exploiting the chances.

The president reiterated that the basis for the success of any dialogue among the factions is everyone's respect for the Authority's commitments to the peace process while every citizen has the right to express his views by democratic means.

The president referred to the results of the dialogue conducted by some representatives of forces and factions with Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Zakariya al-Agha, members of the Fatah Central Committee. He said that some statements issued in the wake of those meetings affirm the lack of seriousness of some people to achieve real results as well as their continued intention to create Palestinian sedition in view of the fact that their decision is not in their hands but depends on a decision by some foreign countries.

The president added that the Tehran government has recently bragged that it has increased the financial allocations to some Islamic groups that are trying to threaten the security in the Authority's areas and thwart the realization of the Palestinian people's national goals. He noted that the Palestinian revolution provided aid to all officials of the Iranian Government when they were in the diaspora. We were the warm bosom that embraced them and assisted them with all our capabilities to achieve their aims, but they responded to our good deeds with the attempt to create sedition and transfer it to our ranks and ordain themselves as our custodians. The president emphasized that some leaders have admitted that they need some time to consult their leaderships abroad in order to agree to stop their military operations and respect the Authority's commitment to the agreements that it has signed. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat Expresses 'Anger' at Hamas-U.S. Meeting

*TA2404160195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Apr 95 p 2*

[Report by 'Ezra Hen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Now for the first time, I feel that Palestinian public opinion understands that terror acts harm the Palestinians as well," Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday in reference to the reactions to the wave of detentions recently carried out by the Palestinian Authority [PA] against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists. "We drew red lines for these organizations that they must not cross," he added. 'Arafat made the remarks in a two-hour meeting with a delegation of the Peace Center at his office in the PA Building in Gaza.

Peace Center Director General 'Ofer Bronstein asked 'Arafat to help the center convince the Israeli public that 'Arafat and the Palestinian people are sincere in their intention to adhere to the peace process and fight those who wish to terminate it.

In response, 'Arafat said that to his regret there is "cooperation" (indicating quotation marks with his fingers) between extremists on both sides aiming to sabotage the peace process. At the same time, most of the

Israelis and Palestinians "decided to take the road from which there is no turning back—the road to peace," he said.

'Arafat said that he understands the Israeli public's security needs very well, but that the Israeli public must understand that peace is the most central element of security between Israel and the Palestinians. To demonstrate and further stress this point, 'Arafat said that the two terrorists who carried the explosive charges from the village of al-Dahaniyah to the Bet Lid Junction crossed four IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblocks. They were wearing IDF uniforms, and the soldiers could not detect that they are terrorists and arrest them.

He reminded his visitors that he had offered to Rabin to expand the joint patrols of the IDF and the Palestinian defense forces in order to better deal with the threat of terror, but that his offer has not yet been favorably responded to.

'Arafat also revealed that two weeks ago, two senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representatives met with senior U.S. Administration officials in Washington and asked them to unfreeze money belonging to Islamic organizations that had recently been frozen by a U.S. Administration decree. 'Arafat expressed surprise and anger over the fact that the Americans agreed to hold such a meeting. He added that the United States is not taking serious measures to prevent the flow of funds from Kuwait to the extremist organizations in the territories. At the same time, the United States is taking no steps to unfreeze some $128 million being held in Kuwait, which belong to moderate Palestinians and are earmarked for the development works in the autonomy. [passage omitted]

## 'Urayqat on Pilgrims, Dialogue With Opponents

*NC2404093495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[Telephone Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] There is a problem involving Palestinian pilgrims travelling from the West Bank and the lands occupied in 1948. Has any solution been arrived at to end this problem?

['Urayqat] This is in fact a fabricated problem, one unjustifiably created by the Israeli side. As you know, there is an agreement, and a Palestinian passport is in use. Saudi Arabia has announced that it will accept Palestinian pilgrims carrying this document. These pilgrims use different passports each year. The problem Israel created is absolutely unjustified. Israel confiscated about 4,080 passports from Palestinians who were on their way to Jordan to get entry visas to the holy lands in Saudi Arabia. We are doing our utmost and working through several international bodies to overcome this problem. God willing, we will solve it in the next few hours.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But Israel justifies its conduct by saying that the residents of the West Bank and the lands occupied in 1948 already have Israeli nationality. Is there a specific Palestinian plan envisioned for enabling all Palestinian citizens carry a Palestinian passport?

['Urayqat] Pilgrims from the lands occupied in 1948 were using a temporary passport provided by the Jordanian Government. But the Saudi authorities decided that every Palestinian hajj should carry a Palestinian passport. The point is that this document is used to travel between Jordan and the Saudi territories. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to accept the Palestinian passport. A pilgrim will leave the Israeli areas with any document Israel accepts. What business is it of Israel's what travel documents Arab states use among themselves?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Why did Israel create this problem at this particular time?

['Urayqat] They view the matter from several angles. We look at it from one angle. This is the time for the hajj, which is a purely religious matter that should not be obstructed. No pilgrim should be hindered from performing his hajj rituals. Israel views the matter from more than one angle. They think of the impact the Palestinian passport will have on the internal political situation and policies in Israel. But the matter should remain within its true limits. These are pilgrims headed for the holy Ka'bah. The relevant Arab states decided to respect Palestinian passports. We see absolutely no reason for this unjustified problem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us move on to the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the opposition. What has it achieved so far?

['Urayqat] As we said from the beginning, the PA represents the Palestinian people. It was created by a decision of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people. From the outset we said that there is a big difference between political plurality and the duality of the authorities. In other words, we back freedom of expression, freedom of thought, political plurality, and political parties regardless of whether they support or oppose the peace process. Political plurality should be respected in accordance with our national tradition. The duality of authorities is something else. There are numerous examples of this duality around us. Afghanistan, Algeria, and many other states are experiencing tragic developments.

There are commitments in the agreements the PLO signed. This is not new. Fourteen years before the PA existed in the land of Palestine there was a one-year cease-fire agreement with the Israeli Government—in

1981-82, until Israel invaded Lebanon. That commitment was respected. There have also been truces and troop disengagement agreements between some Arab states and Israel.

All we are saying now is that these agreements should be respected, so that we can proceed with implementing what was agreed upon, particularly the withdrawal of Israel troops from the West Bank, without giving Israel an excuse to obstruct the peace process and the implementation of the agreement. We all are aware that Israel is procrastinating and obstructing the agreements, even without any excuses. However, commitments should be respected. We have to go ahead with the peace process. That is why the dialogue is still going on.

We sincerely hope the current dialogue between the Palestinian factions—between the brothers in the Fatah movement, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and other political parties—will produce an agreement that takes into consideration the unique nature of present events, the transformations in Palestinian political life, and the regional and international developments and their impact on the Palestinian arena. God willing, this dialogue will ultimately serve the interests of the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel announced that 1 July will be the final date for settling the issue of elections and redeployment. Will Israel commit itself to that date, particularly since it was the party that set it?

['Urayqat] Israel did not pick that date; it was worked out at an official meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister. The deadline makes June the time for implementing the phased agreement in all its aspects. These aspects include the redeployment of the Israel troops away from the populated areas in the West Bank, holding legislative elections, reviewing laws, turning over functions, security issues, and finally, economic issues and relations.

There is a framework for what should be agreed on by that deadline. We will start a new round of negotiations on the elections on 7 and 8 May. The higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee will meet to review all the outstanding issues and discuss their future. We firmly believe that it is possible to reach an agreement on all the aspects. The Gaza-Jericho agreement was not designed as a pilot or experimental project for Rabin or anyone else. The Israeli Government, specifically Rabin, should realize that tailoring the peace process to the needs of 3,000 settlers instead of to the entire Palestinian and Israeli peoples will pose a grave threat to the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

## PA Secretary on Progress in Talks With Islamic Jihad

*TA2504101995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces arrested 15 Palestinian activists in the Janin area in recent days. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that they are members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and Fatah. They were arrested in the town of Janin and in the villages of 'Arrabah and Buruqin. Security sources noted that the Fatah members were arrested in connection with the recent murder of three collaborators in the Janin area.

Palestinian police have released four Hamas activists who were arrested recently, as well as Muhammad al-Hindi, one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent reports that another meeting was held last night between Palestinian Authority [PA] representatives and leaders of Islamic Jihad. The PA secretary said progress was made in the meeting. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that contacts continue between the PA, the Democratic Front, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine concerning a halt to terrorist attacks against Israel.

## Islamic Jihad 'Seriously Studying' PA's Demands

*JN2404133395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala' al-Saftawi, who is known to be close to the Islamic Jihad Movement, has asserted that the movement's leadership is seriously studying the demands made by the representatives of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] during a meeting at the headquarters of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah in Gaza yesterday.

## Leader Rejects Agreements With PA

*NC2404194895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sayyid Barakah, one of the leaders of Islamic Jihad of Palestine Organization, has declared from Lebanon his categorical refusal to conclude any agreements with the Palestinian Authority [PA].

This stand differs from that announced yesterday by Nafiz 'Azzam, one of the organization's leaders in Gaza, who expressed hope of reaching an agreement with the PA soon.

Shaykh Barakah said that 'Azzam's statement does not represent the ideological and radical stand in which the organization's members and its military wing believe.

### Al-Qassam: Jihad To Continue Until End of Occupation

*TA2404122495 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 20 Apr 95 p 2*

[Report by AL-WATAN correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions have rejected the self-rule authority's decision on disarming the organizations resisting the occupation. In a statement distributed yesterday in Gaza, the al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], affirmed their right to continue the jihad until the liberation of the usurped Palestinian territories. Al-Qassam said: "We did not ask the permission nor the opinion of anyone when we bore arms. The jihad will continue with honor and pride."

Hamas considered the self-rule authority's decision unjust, rejected it, and called on the Authority to rescind it. In their statement, the al-Qassam Battalions referred to the fact that the occupation, its settlements, and its military mechanism have remained. The statement also referred to the assassinations and the death squads that are pursuing the mujahidin, and especially the verdicts issued by the "Authority's security" court. The battalions noted that these verdicts are the result of pressure by Rabin and U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The al-Qassam Battalions asked: "How come verdicts are being issued against the mujahidin while collaborators are left to roam freely?"

### Hamas Statement Attacks Authority Practices

*JN2404172695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 2*

[AL-MAJD is an independent Jordanian weekly critical of the government and the Arab-Israeli peace process]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] has urged the self-rule authority to meet the demands of the Palestinian masses and put an end to the state of tension in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued to the public, Hamas said that measures by the self-rule authority are endangering national unity and may result in a wave of violence and inter-Palestinian fighting. Following are details of the statement:

Since the limited self-rule authority was launched in the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has been making every effort to block attempts to harm the Palestinian people and their higher interests, to destabilize national unity, and to create violence and inter-Palestinian fighting, which everybody knows will benefit the criminal Zionist entity and its designs and conspiracies.

Therefore, Hamas has been trying to eliminate the factors of tension by ignoring the offenses the authority and its security organs have launched against our people and their heroic mujahidin in response to the terrorist Rabin's messages and in implementation of U.S. and Zionist orders and conditions at the expense of our people, their interests, and their ongoing brave resistance against the Zionist occupation. Hamas has always tried to spare our people further disasters and the destructive consequences of the provisions of the flimsy Oslo-Cairo agreements.

Recent events in the Gaza Strip show the irresponsible behavior of the authority and its security organs, which have crossed our red lines and violated our national taboos. This has prompted Hamas to work with the other Palestinian factions to set matters right and prevent internecine fighting. But the authority did not take these efforts seriously. It exploited them, tried to distort Hamas' image, and continued its ill treatment of our people and their blessed mujahidin.

Therefore, the Islamic Resistance Movement felt it was necessary to clarify matters by stressing several issues and facts as follows:

1. The self-rule authority is responsible for the tension in the Gaza Strip. The tension was not the result of the past two weeks. It has been the authority's clear policy since it came to the Gaza Strip. The self-rule authority forced the Palestinian police to kill the sons of our people in the Filastin Mosque on 18 December 1994, it colluded and cooperated with the Zionist enemy's intelligence to commit crimes such as the ugly crime that occurred in the Shaykh Radwan quarter, it remained silent over the assassination of martyr Nasir Salluhah and Hani 'Abid, it allowed agents and criminals to commit more crimes and shed the pure Palestinian blood by failing to chase these sides, it took an irresponsible position on the investigation of all these crimes and on punishing the criminals regardless of their identities and their posts, and it used hundreds of its supporters to launch unprecedented oppressive and barbaric arrest campaigns.

2. Meetings and dialogues over the past few days were intended to calm the situation and defuse the crisis but they did not cope in any way with official agreements. Rather, they urged a halt to the provocations and violations that have been exercised by the self-rule authority over the past few days. These were ordinary meetings the likes of which have been held in the past to overcome crises and problems resulting from the practices of the authority. But they were distorted without any justification.

3. All the allegations circulated by the news media about expected pledges by Hamas to stop military operations and valiant acts of resistance against the occupation are completely unfounded. Hamas stresses that jihad against the occupation will continue by all possible means as long as this spiteful occupation is there and as long as it continues its repression, arrogance, and crimes. Jihad was and still is our people's sole option in confronting the Zionist occupation. This option will never be subject

to bargains. Jihad will continue wherever there is occupation under any name and through any tool in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, holy Jerusalem, and the Palestinian territory usurped in 1948. Jihad will continue until the occupation is removed and our territory and holy places are liberated from its filth. Our people's mujahidin will never give in their weapons to anybody at all.

4. All the news media fabrications and allegations about a change in Hamas' stand on the flimsy Oslo-Cairo agreements are unfounded. Hamas denounces the circulation of such disgusting fabrications at this time in particular, which is witnessing a constantly growing opposition among our people with all their segments to those flimsy agreements. Thus, Hamas stresses that it has not and will never change its principled, constant stand on those agreements. It will not respect them nor will it consider them binding to it because they encroach upon our people's rights and aspirations and because they kill the Palestinian people's dream to have their blessed land liberated.

5. Certain parties insist on holding our Palestinian people responsible for the flimsy agreements although they have not been consulted and their hopes and aspirations have not been respected. What happened was that an influential minority signed agreements in our people's name. Anyone who says otherwise will be doing our people injustice, for the majority of our people's forces, factions, and nationalist figures inside and outside the PLO opposed those agreements from the outset. The agreements were also opposed by many nationalist personalities inside the higher PLO institutions and among the Fatah leaders. Moreover, those agreements are now opposed by a significant number of those who supported them at the beginning.

6. Through its incorrect practices, the limited self-rule authority has destroyed every chance for fruitful dialogue. By continuing to issue illegal and rejected verdicts through its martial court and continuing to bring detainees under physical torture to force them to sign vows, the authority is dismissing any chance for dialogue. Moreover, this leads to increased tension and volatility, pushes toward the brink of conflict, and promotes spiteful sedition.

Having placed these facts and clarifications before the masses of our people and nation, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, reiterates the following demands:

A. The limited self-rule authority must immediately and unconditionally release all detainees in the authority prisons without exception. The release of some prisoners was only designed for propaganda purposes. Meanwhile, detention campaigns are still continuing up to this moment.

B. All statements and threats against the mujahidin must be halted. Weapons must not be seized. There must be no attempts to collaborate with the Zionists to thwart our people's acts of resistance against the Zionist occupation.

C. All illegal verdicts issued by the authority's martial court against our people's mujahidin must be annulled. This court, which was rejected from the outset, must be canceled.

D. All our people whose houses, institutions, or offices have been damaged and those who suffered financial losses during the authority's repressive campaigns must be compensated.

E. All the violations committed by some undisciplined members of the authority's security during the past days must be investigated. Those responsible for such acts must be brought to account irrespective of their posts and positions.

F. Real, rather than superficial, committees must be set up to look into all the crimes that have been committed against our people since the authority's arrival in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The criminals and agents responsible for those crimes must be punished.

### Hamas Spokesman Denies 'Formal' Dialogue With PA

*NC2404193995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given: from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim recently announced that his [Palestinian] Authority [PA] made some progress in its negotiations with Islamic Jihad but that it had made no significant progress in its talks with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. What is the meaning of these remarks? What do they indicate?

[Ghawshah] According to reports, Islamic Jihad sources have denied this information. Concerning Hamas, all the discussions that have taken place in Gaza since the PA entered the Strip have been over operational matters and sought to end tensions. There have been no political discussions. Over the past two days, Hamas issued clear statements, announced by its official spokesman, saying that it is ready to hold open political discussions with the PA on condition that this authority release the detainees and not make any new arrests. Second, Hamas stipulated that the verdicts passed by the so-called State Security Court and the court itself be abolished. This court violates Palestinian human rights. Third, Hamas demanded that the decision to collect the weapons found with the Palestinian public be rescinded. The Palestinian people are confronting the occupation authorities and the Zionist settlers. Fourth, Hamas demanded that neutral Palestinian committees be formed to investigate the volatile issues that have shaken the Palestinian community such as the incidents involving the Filastin Mosque and Hayy al-Shaykh Radwan. These conditions, or rather these steps on the path to building trust—if you, or any commentator, would like to call them that—are necessary to hold any discussions with the PA. Unless these steps and conditions are fulfilled, Hamas cannot begin any discussion with the PA.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the self-rule authority has recently been saying that several meetings and discussions have been held with your movement. You, on the other hand, have denied this. What is the meaning of these claims, if it is correct to call them claims?

[Ghawshah] We must distinguish between public political discussions, like the discussions that used to take place between the PLO and Fatah on one the side and Hamas on the other, prior to the Olso Agreement of 13 September 1993. The latest such meeting was held in Khartoum on 4 January 1993. No such formal political discussions have been held lately. Other discussions, namely operational discussions or personal meetings, have been conducted. No formal discussions have been held.

[Al-'Idan] Some people believe that the leaks that the PLO leaders are making to the newspapers are part of an attempt to give themselves a legitimate status by claiming to have held meetings with you. What is your comment on this interpretation?

[Ghawshah] First of all, we take pride in the fact that the Authority wishes to draw legitimacy from its contacts with Hamas. It is a correct and sound view because Hamas enjoys the backing of a large section of the Palestinian public, actually 50 percent. This is a fact. However, real legitimacy would be drawn from the Palestinian public when it makes its views known freely. A really legitimate dialogue is one that is made public, that has a specific agenda, and that produces agreements, recommendations, or at least a position clarifying the results of the dialogue. So far this has not happened. Therefore, it is not reasonable to believe this or that source of the Palestinian Authority which claims it is having continuous and formal discussions with Hamas.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Ghawshah, the self-rule authority has announced that it released some detainees. Has it released your Hamas detainees?

[Ghawshah] Some detainees have been released but around 200 members of Hamas, Islamic Jihad brothers, and brother members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have remained in prison. This is the current situation. Actually, more arrests are being made. Some detainees have been released. Others were arrested three days ago. This process continues. For this reason, one of Hamas' conditions to have a formal, political dialogue is the release of all Palestinian detainees. No such dialogue can take place as long as any detainee remains in prison, whether he is a Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or DFLP member.

[Al-'Idan] Could you please put us in the picture on the very latest conditions inside the occupied territories, both on the political and the struggle scene?

[Ghawshah] As everyone can tell, there is intense pressure on the struggler forces to halt their jihad operations in the self-rule areas and the other areas, that is, in the West Bank and the pre-1948 areas. The PA is specifically proposing this through the media. It is an attempt to convince the Palestinian public that unless these operations are halted, the PA cannot extend its jurisdiction to the West Bank. Our answer is that the Zionist enemy has not abandoned its smallest settlement, Netzarim for example, or the very small number of Zionist settlers in Hebron, despite the continued resistance operations in which our martyrs fall. How can the PA convince the Palestinian public that the Zionists will withdraw from the West Bank and East Jerusalem where there are more than 300,000 settlers? We are posing this question to the PA.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Ghawshah, thank you very much for this important dialogue.

[Ghawshah] You are welcome.

## Police Release 20 Arrested After Suicide Bombings

*NC2404120095 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 24 (AFP)—Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule Authority on Monday [24 April] freed 20 militants rounded up after a double suicide bombing and authorised the publication of an opposition newspaper, Palestinian sources said.

Police said that members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad arrested after the bombing in the Gaza Strip which killed eight people on April 9 had been freed for lack of evidence.

They refused to say how many, but Palestinian sources put the figure at 20.

More than 100 militants have now been released since 'Arafat ordered a crackdown on Moslem hardliners which netted up to 200 people.

Meanwhile, the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that it had received permission from the Palestinian Authority to publish a newspaper.

Central Committee member Jawdat al-Sawariki said that 'Arafat had given the greenlight at a meeting on Friday night.

AL-JUMHURIYAH (The Republic) will be edited by another central committee official, Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, and will campaign against the Oslo autonomy accord.

It is the third opposition newspaper to be authorised by the self-rule authority following Hamas's AL-WATAN and Islamic Jihad's ISTIQLAL.

'Arafat's authority and the radical groups have been holding talks on easing tension on the Gaza Strip.

## Hamas Activists Sentenced for Murdering 'Collaborator'

*TA2404160895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's state security court in Gaza has meted out a three-year prison term to two residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp who were convicted of being Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and of murdering a man suspected of collaborating with Israel. The state security court acquitted a third Jabalyah resident and ordered his release. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports this is the first time that the state security court has convicted people suspected of murdering collaborators.

## Planning, Finance Ministers Leave for Aid Meeting

*JN2404201895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian delegation including Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance, left for Paris today to participate in a meeting that will be held there on Thursday to discuss the aid the donor states pledged to extend to the National Authority [NA].

On Wednesday, Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and (David Brodis), director general of the Israeli Finance Ministry, are scheduled to join this delegation.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said Israel will support the NA's demands during this meeting that the donor states be committed to their pledges. A ministry spokesman said that during the Paris meeting, Norway will submit a document on coordinating the European and U.S. aid.

## Algeria

### Report on Arrest of FIS Leader's Brother Denied

*LD2404163595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdelhamid Belhadj, brother of Imam 'Ali Belhadj, second-in-command of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has not been arrested by the police. At least, that is what this morning's edition of the Algiers daily LA TRIBUNE reports, denying early reports. [passage omitted]

### SDAR Envoy Briefs TNC Speaker on Western Sahara

*LD2404192095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abdelkader Bensalah, speaker of the Transitional National Council [TNC], received today at the council's headquarters Mohamed Habibal-lah, head of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] mission in Algeria. The meeting was an occasion for the latter to present a review of the political and diplomatic developments of the Western Saharan issue proceeding from the UN efforts to settle it.

### Contract Signed To Supply Electricity to Morocco

*LD2404201695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Rabat, Algeria has just signed a contract with Morocco to supply electrical energy to the tune of $25 million. This contract covers a period of two years. It falls within the framework of mutual assistance between the Algerian and Moroccan electricity boards.

### Parties Hail Agreement To End School Boycott

*LD2404204695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] has just reacted to the agreement between the presidency of the state and the Amazight [Berber] movements and associations. It expresses satisfaction at the conclusion of the conflict and stresses that the implementation of the agreement in the best possible conditions and in the briefest possible period of time will be a good indicator of the development of the state when dealing with the basic problems experienced by society.

In the opinion of the MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development], this agreement demonstrates, should there be any such need, the extent to which Algerians are capable of reaching agreement by peaceful means.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Speech Highlights Peace, Nuclear Moves

*NC2504102295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0803 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak on the 13th anniversary of the Sinai liberation; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Citizens, the 25th of April represents a unique occasion among Egypt's national holidays because it embodies Egypt's overwhelming happiness at the return of Sinai to the homeland. It is the day of harvest of Egypt's ceaseless and hard struggle. This struggle reached its peak during the glorious October war, which restored the dignity of the homeland and paved the way for a just peace that respects rights and arranges things in the region on an equal and sound basis.

Egypt offered 100,000 martyrs from among its hero sons, whose pure blood watered every inch of soil there. Egypt spent 100 billion Egyptian pounds during grinding wars and experienced profound grief that hit Egyptian hearts. This grief vanished on 6 October, when the hero sons crossed the canal, raising Egypt's flags aloft on Sinai soil, and watering with their blood the trees of freedom on every inch of this sacred land.

The 25th of April will remain forever a symbol of the sacrifices of a great people, who, for long years, have offered numerous huge sacrifices to regain their sovereignty over their national soil. The people made the issues of the land's liberation and honor their highest priorities. Determined to regain their rights, the Egyptian people waged a thorny struggle under difficult international circumstances while preparing to bring the battle of liberation forward.

We fought so that peace would triumph, rights would return to their owners, and new conditions would be made available to help establish a comprehensive and just peace. We fought so that this peace would reformulate relations among the peoples of this region, which suffered because of destructive wars. These wars sapped the region's potential and resources. When Egypt's flags flew high over Sinai during the blessed hours of 6 October, the entire world realized the significance of the great event and its unlimited effects on the Middle East.

On that glorious day Egypt's valiant soldiers proved that they were capable of an outstanding military accomplishment that overturned the balances of power, changed the region's conditions, buried old concepts, and revealed the essence of a great people who are capable of making miracles. Then came late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat's call, at the peak of his victory, to demonstrate to the entire world Egypt's keen desire for a comprehensive and just peace that preserves the rights of all parties.

Greetings to Egypt's Armed Forces, whose sons soaked every inch of the Sinai with their blood; greetings to their valiant men, who waged the most honorable of battles for the homeland to regain its dignity and rights; and greetings to Egypt's honorable son, martyr, and hero Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, whose great war decision and historic peace decision embodied Egypt's spirit and immortal values calling for justice, security, and peace.

And just as the Egyptian people fought the battle of liberation in unity behind their Armed Forces, backing them and offering all possible sacrifices for them, so all factions of the people have fought the battle of peace, confident of their ability to achieve a just peace that restores all their rights. In a wonderful epic of national struggle in which diverse approaches were employed and decisive military action interacted with sincere political efforts, Egypt regained its sovereignty over Sinai. Then came Taba's return, crowning Egypt's struggle and determination to restore all its national soil up to the last inch in Sinai. Taba's restoration provided a unique model of a fruitful cultural dialogue that proved the peoples' ability to face their differences peacefully, if intentions are sincere, everybody complies with the rules of legitimacy, and all parties sincerely implement the provisions of the law.

In light of the experiment of this fruitful cultural dialogue that provided the correct solution for the problem of Taba and closed a door before a dispute that could have exhausted the Egyptian-Israeli peace efforts, we invite everybody to a serious and responsible dialogue that leads to a specific agreement on the need to free the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction.

I assume that we could reach such agreement if we all viewed the future in the way a confident person does, fighting his way to the new era with firm and steady steps and a strong will, away from the past's vestiges and legacy.

It would be inconceivable for us to live in the era of peace burdened with the bitterness of war, grudges, and hate, and exhausted with mutual suspicion and fear of what the day might bring us. We do not intend to create a crisis with anyone nor do we want to present new demands that could perhaps be difficult to implement. But we need proof of the good intentions guaranteeing the birth of a new Middle East free from all weapons of mass destruction and in which relations among the peoples would be established on sound bases to safeguard the future and spare the potential of its future generations for a better tomorrow.

Brothers and Sisters, the peace structure stood fast in raging storms because it was established on strong foundations that can guarantee the rights of all parties and also because it opened the doors to free cooperation to achieve everyone's interests without coercion or force. I suppose the Egyptian-Israeli peace remains a sound model for the relations of peace that should prevail in the Middle East. This is because the peoples will not accept a peace that would harm their national sovereignty, encroach on their historic rights, or undermine their national security. Any peace that lacks these prerequisites will not be a permanent and stable peace and will not open the door for new relations among the region's peoples.

From this premise, Egypt has always wanted to advance the peace process in sound directions to safeguard the hopes of the region's peoples via a just peace and to protect the peaceful settlement from impending dangers and prevent the peace enemies from aborting it.

The peace process is now going through enormous difficulties that portend danger unless wisdom prevails, reason triumphs, and everybody realizes the seriousness of the current situation. Perhaps the greatest danger to the peace process now is the spread of despair and frustration and the prevalence of the mistaken belief that peace has become an impossible goal, either because of the intransigence and stagnation of some stances or due to the rise in crimes of violence committed by an organized minority, whose declared and obvious goal is to sabotage the peace efforts. The Palestinian-Israeli peace remains a sound target the attainment of which is indispensable, because the majority of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples still want peace. But this peace needs more sincere efforts by both sides to face the mutual challenges, achieve similar hopes, and pave the way for a safe future for all the region's peoples.

We look forward to achieving tangible progress on the Syrian track despite the obstacles that continue to preclude an agreement by the two sides. It has become clear to everybody that there is no alternative to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is because there is a sound rule that must be the subject of compliance and respect, namely, all land for all peace. This rule applies to every track, including the Lebanese track, which we must not ignore or undervalue.

Brother Citizens, under peace the face of life on the soil of dear Sinai has changed. Sinai is now the scene of a major reconstruction renaissance the fruits of which will multiply. An enormous national project is under way to spread development throughout its soil, along all its coasts, and in all its valleys, which will receive water from the Nile in a few years to water vast areas of Sinai. The prosperity of Sinai today is the fruit of a just peace that restored to the homeland its entire national soil and prepared the atmosphere for a new era of national action the goal of which is to intensify development efforts, broaden the scope of democracy, and unleash the peoples' initiatives to build, reconstruct, and spread glory and welfare throughout a region that deserves life and peace.

I pray God Almighty to crown our efforts with success on the road toward a just and durable peace that preserves rights, upholds the value of justice, and achieves equitable and balanced security for everybody, for he is verily the best supporter. May peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

### Ministry Source Denies Breaking Pledges on NPT

*MM2404142695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 4*

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Cairo Affirms Fulfillment of its Pledges to Washington, Which is Angered by Musa's Speech"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An authoritative Egyptian Foreign Ministry source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt has not violated its pledges vis-a-vis the negotiations concerning the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. And that it announced its position clearly, refused to extend the treaty indefinitely, disapproved of double standards, and did not discuss a confrontation with Israel or even a countercampaign anywhere.

The Foreign Ministry official stressed that the Egyptian position announced by Minister 'Amr Musa at the United Nations expressed insecurity as a result of the Israeli nuclear program. So we cannot imagine that the United States condemns Egypt's insistence on the universality of the treaty and its signing by all world states, including Israel.

The source was commenting on a U.S. spokesman's criticism of Cairo's position on the NPT's extension—a rare step on Washington's part, to openly express its anger with a close ally.

The authoritative Egyptian Foreign Ministry source added: "We have done what we agreed with the United States during President Mubarak's visit to Washington, namely to initiate a dialogue with Israel to settle the situation and achieve progress in the Israeli position. But it [Israel] offered nothing significant in this connection, saying that the fact that it agreed to discuss the NPT issue is a new Israeli position, without making any pledges."

The source said that the United States understands the Egyptian position well, and there is no need to issue condemnations or to change course. It would have been more proper to have urged Israel to join the NPT and to participate in a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East if it considers itself one of the region's states. [passage omitted]

### Minister Discloses Budget Allocations, Resources

*NC2404115795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—The public investment allocated to infrastructure and development in the new state budget is estimated at 7,734,008,000 Egyptian pounds. Of this, 3,351,006,000 pounds are allocated to the administrative apparatus, 721,006,000 to local government, and 3,661,006,000 to services. [figures as received]

Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz has stated that the necessary finance for these investments has been provided by available intrinsic resources, including 1,953,004,000 pounds in revenues and 891,004,000 pounds in grants and assistance. He added that the total deficit of the services apparatus amounts to 4.890 billion pounds.

The minister pointed out that the deficit is being financed by borrowing from savings through the National Investment Bank. These savings include 4,352,003,000 pounds in security funds, post office savings, and investment bonds, in addition to 537,007,000 pounds financed by local and foreign credit facilities.

Al-Razzaz pointed out that the deficit from investments in the services apparatus, 4.890 billion pounds, has been financed by real finance sources without resorting to the banking apparatus.

### Al-Baz Advocates Setting Up Arab Market

*NC2304155595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Qina, Upper Egypt, 23 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized that developments in the Middle East leading to the consolidation of peace and stability will create "new relations" between the region's countries.

Addressing a seminar organized by Janub al-Wadi University in Qina, Upper Egypt, last night, he said: These developments will prompt us to work for development and reconstruction to improve the standard of living.

He noted that the Egyptian nation is able to achieve miracles and that it leads the nations that have a strong and cohesive social fabric. Egypt, he added, will remain until the day of judgment a beacon of culture and civilization for the surrounding countries and all the world. He expressed his belief that culture will become more important than economic and military might.

He said we cannot imagine that the Israeli character will beat Egypt in any domain because there is no reason for that.

Dr. al-Baz added: We have to establish an Arab market and think of a model that serves the national interests of every country. Once the market is established, we will think how to deal with the major economic blocs. He noted that dealing with non-Arab countries in the region, such as Turkey, Iran, Israel, and the neighboring region's countries in the Horn of Africa, should also be contemplated.

## Eighty Released Fishermen Return From Eritrea

*NC2304173695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Eighty Egyptian fishermen returned to Cairo today after being released through the Egyptian Embassy in Asmara.

The fishermen were detained by Eritrea's authorities while fishing in international waters on 11 April.

They said that they were fishing in international waters and were surprised when the Eritrean authorities took them to the (Mutawwa') port where they were detained.

## Reshaping International Economic Ties Viewed

*95LD0042A London al-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Feb 95 p 45*

[Interview with Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of international cooperation, by Mahmud Salim in Cairo; date not given: "Egypt Using Mubarak-Gore Initiative To Reshape International Economic Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For several weeks, Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, the minister of international cooperation, has devoted himself to preparing to reshape Egypt's economic relations with various world countries, especially international blocs.

This new shape comes within the context of current international changes, which were the basic motivation for undertaking this activity.

The new form includes several basic axes:

- There is a new axis currently taking shape between Egypt and the United States.
- There is another axis being prepared between Egypt and the EC.
- There are also discussions under way between Egypt and Far Eastern countries, as well as republics of the former Soviet Union.

AL-HAWADITH met with Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, who explained what was currently happening.

[Dr. Butrus-Ghali] At the outset, basic guidelines are being formulated to reshape Egypt's relations with economic blocs. These new relations are based on integrated fiscal economic relations with those international blocs, as well as the major international economies, such as the United States and the EC. This means that Egypt's relations abroad are not limited to receiving international loans and assistance, but that these relations extend to full coordination between the loans, assistance, and grants that Egypt obtains and the privileges it may obtain to permit Egypt to enter the markets of those countries. They also extend to whatever Egypt can grant to encourage these countries to enter the Egyptian market in the form of investment flow.

The axis of Egypt's relations with the outside world will not be just a fiscal relationship, but a relationship that depends, to a considerable extent, on the flow of financial investments. Egypt's goal in shaping these new relations with countries and economic blocs is the capability to penetrate these countries' markets so as to enable Egyptian industries to grow and, consequently, to increase available job opportunities. The need is not so much for money as it is for markets.

Egypt requires modern technological capabilities that could strengthen its industries and increase the size of foreign investment within Egypt. That would create the opportunity for Egyptian products to be competitive in international markets.

Therefore, the economic dialogue that has begun between Egypt and the United States, aimed fundamentally at the transfer of advanced technology to Egypt and the development of the human element in the industrial, agricultural, and service sectors, is also aimed at increasing the volume of joint investments.

Egypt is tied to the United States by excellent economic relations because of the existence of good political and economic climates and the importance of the role that Egypt plays on the Arab and international scenes to maintain international peace and security and to achieve stability in the Middle East. The United States occupies first place among the countries that give assistance to Egypt. Egypt is in second place after Israel in the program of American economic aid. This reflects the strategic importance that Egypt occupies in U.S. foreign policy.

The program of American aid to Egypt enjoys relative stability at the present time, since the United States gives $815 million within the context of the Economic Support Fund. Total economic assistance that Egypt has received from America, from 1975 to the end of 1993, is approximately $19.6 billion, including $15.8 billion in Economic Support Fund activities, and about $3.8 billion as low-cost loans under the Agricultural Produce Surplus Law.

The American assistance program has shared in financing several projects in various fields including, as examples, projects in the electrical and energy fields amounting to $1.4 billion, projects in housing and utilities valued at $2.1 billion, and projects in wired and wireless communications valued at $1 billion. This is in addition to financing a number of industrial, educational, health, and oil projects.

Egypt has been obtaining this financing since 1975 as nonreimbursable grants.

The Ministry of International Cooperation has for several weeks been pursuing the Egyptian-American initiative that has been prepared as a new form of economic cooperation with the United States. It is an initiative known as the "Mubarak-Al Gore Initiative," which was approved during the visit of American Vice President Al Gore to Cairo nearly two months ago.

A business council will be formed, composed of businessmen from Egypt and America, to discuss the shape of mutual cooperation within the context of this initiative. In the first place, this initiative is aimed at benefiting from American advanced technology in the areas of production, assembly, and services in order to make available an opportunity to develop Egyptian productivity and create job opportunities for Egyptians.

[Salim] What about the dialogue with the EC?

[Dr. Butrus-Ghali] The content and the goal are the same. It is a dialogue that is striving to transfer advanced technology and to obtain benefits that allow Egyptian products to enter world markets.

Egyptian economic relations, either with America or the EC in particular, and with world countries in general, have entered a stage of fiscal and economic maturity, which no longer depends on the receipt of aid and loans, but rather, goes beyond to the attracting of investments and the transfer of advanced technology.

Apart from America and the EC, Egypt is endeavoring to shape new economic relations with countries of East Europe and republics of the former Soviet Union. President Husni Mubarak's visit to Rumania was a good opportunity to bolster economic relations between the two countries.

[Salim] Therefore, there is a new strategy for international cooperation between Egypt and various countries of the world?

[Dr. Butrus-Ghali] That is correct. A new strategy that takes into account the current international economic changes and major economic blocs in the world.

This strategy basically concentrates on developing the management of foreign aid and improving the use of resources. Egypt is headed toward the use of foreign loans as a means of financing growth projects. The effect of the project on the balance of payments has to be taken into account, and the ministers of international cooperation are currently working on improving the terms of the loans, supported by obtaining nonreimbursable grants. Loans have been limited to high-return productive projects, in order to pay off the obligations stemming from borrowing, with the following considerations:

- Require financing agencies to reduce the loan's interest burdens and correlated commissions, and lengthen the extensions of grace periods and payments.
- Require appropriate compensations to counter negative effects of rising values of certain currencies, such as the Japanese yen.
- Work for the participation of Egyptian houses of expertise with foreign consultants in the implementation of projects, and reduce the percentage of consultants' fees specified in the loan.
- Use the international principle of lowest bidder in foreign loans in order to benefit from the element of competition, so as to obtain the best terms and rates.
- Support the obtaining of nonreimbursable grants and provide the climate required to receive the largest amount of grants as an investment in favorable relations between Egypt and specific countries.
- Manage these grants in a sound economic way, in harmony with the policy of economic reform that Egypt is pursuing. This can be done by reloaning these grants to beneficiary agencies and paying them in Egyptian pounds.
- Generalize President Husni Mubarak's directives that require confining the availability of foreign loans to projects that can pay off the burdens of these loans through their own revenues. The purpose is to avoid new accumulations of Egypt's foreign debts.

[Salim] What about the private sector in this new strategy?

[Dr. Butrus-Ghali] This strategy is basically aimed at encouraging foreign investors to establish projects in and transfer advanced technology to Egypt. This can be done through signing agreements aimed at encouraging and protecting investments in order to attract those investors to operate in a secure and stable environment.

This strategy is aimed at encouraging the Egyptian private sector to increase its investments and exports through their participation in meetings of joint committees with a number of countries. This would give them the opportunity to learn about foreign markets. Holding meetings with their counterparts in these countries would be mutually advantageous.

This strategy is also aimed at strengthening relations with Arab and African countries, through top-level joint committees between Egypt and those countries and implementing the decisions emanating from them. All incentives will also be given to Arab investments, and agreements will be signed to encourage and protect investments with those countries.

## Mechanisms for Economic Growth in South Considered

*95LD0041A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Feb 95 p 6*

[Article by Aminah Shafiq: "Mechanism Specifically To Develop Upper Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The south of the Nile Valley looks toward us insistently, asking us to hasten toward it, not because of its overheated conditions and the presence there of terrorism, but because it is the south of our valley, which has continued to take little from us while continuing to give us much. Upper Egypt, the south of our valley, has received insufficient regard from the center, Cairo, except in limited periods of our country's history: for example, when Cairo turned to building the Aswan barrage, raising it the first and the second time; or when Cairo turned to building the High Dam; or during the sixties, when a series of processing industries was built in all the southern governorates, besides other large projects such as fertilizer and aluminum plants, whose sites were linked to proximity to sources of electricity. Yet, despite the size of these investments, they remained below the needs of an area stretching 900 kilometers south of Cairo. When the south of the valley looks toward us to remind us of its existence on the human map of our country, we must deal with it as an important human component, not merely a geographical area occupied by people and needing a number of investments at one place or another to create jobs for unemployed youths. We must also deal with it as a storehouse of Egyptian cultural material that belongs to all mankind and that, therefore, must be preserved, improved, and developed by means of a proper plan that contributes to its development and at the same time starts from where all the previous plans ended. In other words, this new plan aimed specifically at the south of the valley must include all the elements of plans indicated by modern thinking, starting from the individual as a goal, the environment as a component, and the ancient civilization for whose preservation we are directly responsible, not because it is a center that draws tourists and hard currency, but also because it is an ancient human civilization whose like time will never bestow again. So when it was announced that the government was about to allocate 1.5 billion Egyptian pounds to underwrite energy and electricity centers in the Upper Egyptian governorates to encourage investments in the recently established industrial zones in Bani Suwayf, al-Minya, Asyut, and Sawhaj, our immediate reaction was to wonder about the path or course the government was taking in these projects. We are not going to complicate matters or make them more difficult; we merely wonder about the program the government is planning to implement in the area extending from Cairo to the High Dam lake, an area that contains the storehouse of ancient Egyptian civilization and the length of the river that has suffered and continues to suffer from human and industrial degradation. It is important for investments to be made, but it is more important that they be made so as to affect people positively, and not to affect this storehouse and river negatively.

We should, therefore, determine which industries may be established in the south of the valley and which industries should be prohibited from being established there. We should determine at which sites these industries should be established and at which sites they should be prohibited from being built. We should determine on what modern principles they must be built, particularly at a time when the whole world is talking about the environment and the importance of preserving its components, not only for the sake of man, but also for the sake of this ancient civilization of his. We had experiences with industrial building during the sixties. The decade was thick with industrial construction, but it was a decade with its downside, such as the concentration of industry in areas where it should not have been concentrated. Many factors such as population distribution and environmental impact were thereby harmed. Another downside was pollution of the river, our only source of water. By studying this ample experience, we can avoid all these things, particularly if the projects turn toward the south of the valley that encloses this human cultural storehouse.

If we turn toward the south of the valley, there remain after this general observation a number of other observations.

The first observation relates to the statistics coming from Riyadh and Kuwait. The figures from Riyadh say that 1 million Egyptians were working in Saudi Arabia in January 1995. The statistics from Kuwait were that about 300,000 Egyptians were working there at the beginning of 1995. This means that the flow of remittances from Egyptians still forms a source of national income. The important thing in these new statistics is that we face the same phenomenon that we experienced in the seventies, although it seems smaller—the phenomenon of temporary migration to the oil countries. We may be faced with the same experiences that the Egyptians had, who, for many reasons, did not use their money for investment, but directed it toward cement houses that consumed their wealth without bringing them income or production. Given this phenomenon, we have a pressing need for an economic formula to encourage these small savers to turn their remittances to so-called small enterprises, whether industrial or agricultural. Upper Egypt's governorates undoubtedly have many such temporary migrants who will turn to such investments if given the opportunity.

The second observation relates to those people of the south of the valley who have wealth: the rich of Upper Egypt. They are not few in number. They are of considerable number—but outside Upper Egypt. They need a public effort to kindle the spirit of investment in their minds. In general, most of them still have an outlook that leads to holding cash savings or investments in real estate or land. They need a mental shift through encouragement and investment guarantees to motivate them freely to live with their money in Upper Egypt and in its new investments.

Third, encouraging investment in the south of the valley cannot be restricted to encouraging one form and one type of investment. We must encourage all forms, types, and sizes, taking into account the astronomical figures now being raised before us that say that the average cost of a single job in big investments has risen to 73,000 pounds. The cost per job varies between a minimum of 50,000 pounds to a maximum of 2 million pounds in the oil sector. This means that we must not rely on or stop with encouraging big investments. We must turn to all sectors, kinds, types, and sizes of investment so that we can move Upper Egypt into the desired stage of modernization in the available time.

Fourth, this desired transformation in the south of the valley, which will take the character of a productive economic transformation, must be accompanied by another transformation, social and cultural in nature, that draws the countryside and the city closer to each other and draws the south, north, and center of the valley closer to each other. We must acknowledge that Upper Egypt has not received all it needs and all its people need and that this has led it to the state of overall underdevelopment from which it suffers.

Fifth, this long and difficult labor that needs to be implemented in the south of the valley requires that the state apparatus dedicate a special mechanism to it—a mechanism that can plan, implement, and monitor, so as to ensure the success of the work as a whole. In its goals, this mechanism must go beyond merely setting up industries in the governorates of the south. It must bring about the desired development, particularly social and cultural development.

## Libya

### Reportage on Salvation Front Conference in Atlanta

#### Conference Proceedings Detailed

*MM2004142095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 95 p 6*

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: "Libyan Salvation Front Conference Renews al—Muqaryif's Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Atlanta—The participants in the conference of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] have elected Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif as the NFSL secretary general for a new term after the conference's National Council completed discussion and approval of the working papers related to the general budget, the front's strategy, and its organizational structure.

The conference also elected Dr. Mahmud Dakhil as al-Muqaryif's first deputy and Ibrahim Sahd as his second deputy. They also elected the members of the Executive Committee which will replace the Leadership Committee. The elected members are Ahmad al-Maqini, Muhammad Duwayk, Tahir Muhammad, 'Abdallah al-Rifadi, and others. They represent the first, second, and third generations in the front.

During a session held late Monday-Tuesday night [17-18 April] the members called for the reelection of al-Muqaryif, who declared at the conference that he was still insisting on the resignation he submitted in May 1993, turned down at the time, and he pledged to "remain a soldier in the front's ranks, obeying its leadership and always ready to answer the call of duty and to contribute with complete dedication to the implementation of the front's various struggle programs."

Al-Muqaryif reaffirmed what he had said in his letter of resignation, namely that he assumed the responsibilities of secretary general in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances "and I will continue to consider myself fully responsible for all the mistakes and failures during that period in the front's history."

Al-Muqaryif then excused himself and withdrew from the session with his wife and his son Tariq in an emotional atmosphere amid calls for him to stay. The conference insisted on electing him unopposed as secretary general. He again said that someone else should shoulder that responsibility but then, after some deliberations and discussions, he accepted and made a speech pledging "to continue to carry the trust. This fraternity which binds us together is the greatest blessing that God has bestowed upon us and one of the most magnificent traits of the front."

The financial, strategic, and organizational structures committees had submitted their working papers in the morning. The strategic paper confirmed "continued implementation of the struggle program and focus on the organizational structure, and completion of the detailed programs of the cultural plan." That was in addition to a number of resolutions renewing the front's commitment to the two aims of overthrowing the regime and introducing a democratic alternative.

The front passed a resolution calling on the states of the world to "withdraw their diplomatic recognition of (Colonel Mu'ammar) al- Qadhdhafi's regime on the grounds that it lacks constitutional and popular legitimacy and is not authorized or elected by the Libyan people."

The conference agreed to return to the executive committee formula instead of the leadership committee formula on the basis of having a secretary general and elected deputies and representatives to help him in the various sectors. It was also agreed to pay some attention to the areas' structures and give them a greater role. The financial paper on the general budget and revenues and expenditures was also approved. A final session will be held for the announcement of the resolutions and the names of the new Executive Committee members.

Meanwhile NFSL member Muhammad al-Kikhya, brother of Mansur al-Kikhya, said that information about his brother indicated that he was still alive "in the hands of the Libyan regime."

In the evening the film "I Am Human," about al-Kikhya's disappearance, by journalist Muhammad Makhluf was shown. Many of the Libyans in Atlanta and even the American employees and residents of the Holiday Inn Hotel who saw the film were moved by it.

#### Continuation of Military Option Supported

*MM2104103795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 95 p 6*

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: "Libyan Salvation Front Concluded Its Conference With Emphasis on Continuation of Military Option"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Atlanta—The opposition's National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has concluded its conference in Atlanta, Georgia, with emphasis on "continuation of the military option as one of the struggle instruments" and on the need "for the reorganization and development of the Libyan National Army, consisting of the front's armed forces, giving it top priority as a liberation army and a struggle instrument." NFSL Secretary General Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif underscored "the need to restore constitutional legitimacy in Libya and restore Libya's international legitimacy." He rejected any kind of dialogue with Colonel Mu'ammar al—Qadhdhafi's regime.

The final session was opened by Dr. Sulayman 'Abdallah, the conference chairman, who said that "the past four days were full of light and struggle values" and that the conference "lived up to its responsibilities."

Executive Committee Member Ahmad al-Maqini then read out the conference's final statement which said that there were 162 participants including elected members and observers in addition to other Arab and world observers and figures. Referring to the papers discussed, he said that "it is imperative that the fedayeen plan should figure prominently in the struggle map as a necessity dictated by the general circumstances of the national cause."

He noted the Executive Committee's recommendation that it should contact the opposition factions and renew its call for a national conference to achieve the highest degree of coordination and cooperation in support of the national struggle aims of toppling the regime and introducing a national constitutional democratic alternative. The final report endorsed what the front's secretary general said about the Lockerbie crisis, the sanctions, and the need for "a new way of cooperation by the international community and of tackling" the crisis "and of pursuing those personally responsible for the crimes of the two airliners."

It mentioned a recommendation appealing to the Egyptian authorities to disclose the results achieved so far in the investigation into the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, and another appealing to the world states to withdraw their diplomatic recognition of the regime "because it lacks constitutional and popular legitimacy."

Al-Muqaryif made a speech in which he said: "To our brothers in the Libyan opposition: We thank you for attending our conference, held in these difficult circumstances, and for your support expressed in speeches and cables. I, from this position and in implementation of the resolutions, extend my hand and open my heart to our brothers, and so do the front members. We are ready for a meeting in the interest of our country's future and our struggle. All I ask of the brothers in the opposition is to respect our right to our own option of calling for the downfall of al-Qadhdhafi's regime as a prelude to discussions on Libya's present conditions and its future."

He urged "the Arabs, the neighbors, and the international community to understand our cause and not to side with the Libyan regime, because we are not people with a conspiracy plan but people engaged in a legitimate struggle for the salvation of our country." He said that the Libyan people's tragedy "has been compounded by the international sanctions."

He stressed that Libya "will be a better place after the demise of the current regime, better for itself, for its neighborhood, and for international peace. We want Libya to return to constitutional legitimacy and to international legitimacy."

In conclusion, he said: "History is made with the Libyan people's sacrifices. The situation can only be changed by the Libyans themselves. To al-Qadhdhafi we say: March on us with your cavalry, your committees, and your death squads. Tempt whoever you like and make any promises you like. Let those who wish to rejoin you do so, but you cannot deter free men." [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Statement Issued on Uganda's Severing of Ties

*EA2404122395 Khartoum SUNA in French 0930 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] [no dateline as received]—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on Thursday [20 April] evening, [as received] on the decision taken by the Uganda Government on the severing of diplomatic ties with Sudan.

In the statement, the minister of foreign affairs strongly rejected Uganda's justification for the move, pointing out that the decision is part of a plot (?hatched) by Uganda and other parties, which targets the security and stability of Sudan.

The statement denounced the hostile steps taken by Uganda against Sudan, and maintained that Sudan is always committed to the policy of good neighborliness and respect for international charters. The Ugandan Government has, in its hostile campaigns against Sudan, laid military siege to the office of the Sudanese military attache in Kampala, the communique added.

The Ugandan minister of foreign affairs also summoned the Sudanese ambassador in Kampala to inform him of the Uganda Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Khartoum, claiming that the Sudanese Government is not making efforts to maintain good relations with Uganda. The statement quoted the Sudanese Government as saying that the decision falls in the context of the military and material support given by the Ugandan Government to the movement of the rebellion, a reference to Uganda's involvement in the field of operation on the side of the rebels along the Sudanese-Ugandan border. The position of the Ugandan Government as regards the Tripoli declaration, which was concluded under the mediation of Libya, confirms that Uganda has no intention of reaching a peaceful and friendly agreement with Sudan, and that, in addition, the Ugandan press organizations ignored the agreement, because Uganda is preparing a plot against Sudan as part of measures aimed at jeopardizing security and stability in neighboring countries. The Ugandan authorities have fabricated allegations, according to which a military arsenal of heavy artillery, mines and other weapons were found in the office of the Sudanese military attache in Kampala and have also said that the arms were intended for the Ugandan opposition. As far as this is concerned, the Sudanese Government has directed the Sudanese ambassador in Kampala to allow the authorities in Uganda to investigate the office in question, despite the fact that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations authorizes the embassy to reject such a request. The Foreign Ministry statement confirmed Sudan's strict commitment to the policy of good neighborliness and respect for international and regional charters calling for respect of sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of states and solving disputes peacefully.

## Tunisia

### Ben Ali Gives Speech at Seminar on Tolerance

*LD2104183095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] In his speech at Carthage palace today [21 April] at the opening of a seminar on the teaching of principles of tolerance, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali affirmed that the world, during this period of transformation which is taking place at all levels, needs more than ever to entrench the value of tolerance in order to confront selfishness; the tendency towards bigotry in all cultural, social, and economic fields; to establish peace of mind instead of fear; solidarity instead of marginalization and exclusion in both advanced societies and others. He also affirmed that tolerance is a pivotal value in building civilization, upon which all values of human rights are based, as well as the call for beneficence in religions and ethics in all philosophies. From this premise, Tunisia's view on this value is a comprehensive one. It established its cultural, political, economic, and social choices on values, all of which stemmed from tolerance. We listen now to the speech of the president.

[Begin recording] [Ben Ali] In the name of God the merciful the compassionate. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. [passage omitted]

Ladies and Gentlemen, humanity has been witnessing for years now escalation in violence and conflicts, increase in organized crime and terrorism, outbreak of disputes and wars in various parts of the world due to the emergence of fanaticism and extremism again in its various political, ethnic, religious and other forms. This reality calls upon us to stir up the human conscience and thoroughly scrutinize the reasons behind it and seek the means to get rid of it. It constitutes a strange paradox when we compare it with what humanity has achieved in the scientific and technological progress, industrial prosperity, and cultural and artistic creativity. [passage omitted]

We notice that images of violence, strife, annihilation, and various forms of terrorism and extremism are circulated in modern media channels with a surprising intensity, without calculating that as a result it has contributed [word indistinct] the public opinion against it and the emergence of a kind of underestimation of its danger and has turned it into an ordinary daily image, because it has not been accompanied by the pedagogical element in order to play its role in raising awareness in all dimensions and urging conscience to effectively and decisively confront the increase and spread of the phenomena. [passage omitted]

Our continuous efforts are focused to end the tragedy the Bosnian people are experiencing which embodies the return of fanaticism in its most violent form to the societies of the north. Tunisia, which has contributed in starting and promoting the peace process in the Middle East so that the brotherly Palestinian people can live independently on its own land and so that peace and stability prevail in the region, urges the international community—particularly the co-sponsors of the peace process—to speed up settling the differences over the implementation of the provisions of the peace treaty and achieve a settlement that serves peace for all the countries in the region, the Mediterranean, and the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, our conviction in the values of human tolerance, cooperation, and solidarity has prompted us to take many initiatives and endeavors so the Mediterranean Sea will be a lake of peace and security, (?a bridge) for cultural and social interaction, [for] development and real partnership along its coasts so isolation cannot grow—the isolation which is nurtured by a number of racial tendencies and extreme movements that undermine the security of the societies in the north and threaten its stability and hinder all modern aspects in some of the societies of the south.

We have called for a partnership and solidarity development contract between the two sides and for a charter that protects the rights of the communities of the south residing in the countries of the north. We have also stood up against extremism in all international forums and regional organizations as well as through various forms of mechanism for human rights. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Ben Ali Meets With President of Cote D'Ivoire

*LD2104185395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The relations between Tunisia and Cote D'Ivoire and African issues were the main topics of the talks which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held at Carthage [palace] this morning [21 April] with the President of Cote D'Ivoire Henri Konan Bedie, who attended the 2d summit of the central apparatus of the OAU mechanism for the prevention, management, and settlement of conflicts in Africa.

This came in a statement issued by the official spokesman, who said the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the means of developing them. Regarding this issue, the two presidents agreed to call the joint Tunisian-Ivoirian committee to meet next month in Abidjan to study means liable to develop and increase bilateral cooperation in various economic, technical, and cultural fields. [passage omitted]

### Condemnation of Rwandan Violence Issued

*LD2404184495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; issued on 24 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisia, which has been persistently redoubling efforts at the instigation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, direct chairman of the OAU, at bilateral and collective levels to establish peace, stability, and security in Africa, particularly in Rwanda, expresses its deep dismay and condemnation at the renewed manifestations of racial hatred and violence in the most extensive way.

The death of a large number of victims in the Kibeho region of Rwanda during the last few days, requires us to move quickly to avoid a repeat of the massacres of April 1994, which are still on our minds.

Faced by the aggravation of these painful events, Tunisia calls for an expeditious investigation in which the Rwandan government, the OAU, and the United Nations organization cooperate with a view to identifying the criminals and referring them to justice, and putting an end to overlooking the prosecution of the perpetrators of these crimes in accordance with the resolutions of the recent summit conference of the central body of the mechanism for the prevention, management, and settlement of conflicts [held in Tunis on 20 April], and the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Tunisia urges the international community to hold an international conference at the earliest possible date on peace, security, and continued development in the states of the great lakes region, the convening of which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has been persistently calling for in view of it being the ideal framework for supporting the process of national reconciliation and reconstruction in the region.

## Bahrain

### Prime Minister Receives Note From Jordan Counterpart

*JN2504110995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has received a letter from Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir dealing with the strong, fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

The letter was delivered by Jordan's Ambassador to Bahrain 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Arabiyyat during a meeting with the prime minister this morning. It included an invitation to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman to visit Jordan. His highness accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be set later.

## Kuwait

### Opposition Figure Comments on Political Scene

*NC2404082295 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 16 Apr 95 p 8*

[Interview with "veteran politician" Ahmad al-Khatib, Kuwaiti National Assembly deputy and leader of an opposition group in the National Assembly, by unidentified correspondent in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [HAMSHAHRI] Dr. al-Khatib, you are a leader of one of the opposition groups in the Kuwaiti parliament. As we know, you are known as one of the friends of the late 'Abd al-Nasir and of George Habash and you have been among the opposition in Kuwait for years.

[Al-Khatib] That has been my fate always. (He laughs)

[HAMSHAHRI] As members of HAMSHAHRI's press delegation, we attended part of the National Assembly deliberations and it was very interesting for us. What I gleaned from these deliberations was that there is some kind of friction among the National Assembly leadership. Can you please comment on this? Apparently you oppose this friction.

[Al-Khatib] We are in the beginning stages of democracy. Actually, even though we have freedom of speech and of the press, in the National Assembly and in the various institutions in Kuwait, the final decision is in the hands of neither the National Assembly nor the Government, but in the hands of the regime.

As you know, if there are no majority or minority political parties in the National Assembly, parliament will only consist of individuals who have no political affiliations and no political platforms. As a result, no political party will carry the necessary weight. The regime usually attracts the majority to itself. Therefore, when there is no organized political majority, no serious program can be approved if it is not accepted by the regime.

Although political parties are not yet officially recognized and do not have freedom to act, political forces and movements are a reality. Political activity requires a broad arena in order to grow; but this does not exist due to the absence of a law on political parties. For example, you cannot have a headquarters for your party and you cannot publish a newspaper that could act as your party's mouthpiece. Party gatherings and meetings are prohibited, except during elections, and there are many strings attached to political activities. This prevents the favorable growth of politics and also prevents democracy from becoming widespread.

The freedom of all parties should be ensured. No type of monopolization is acceptable. Full democracy should be ensured for all political tendencies and processes so that views can be expressed.

The nation will make the final decision on which direction to move. As a result, the majority in parliament will be chosen on the basis of which philosophy the people accept. In this way a government acceptable to the majority will be formed and will play its part in implementing programs. The stands and beliefs of individuals do not endure.

[HAMSHAHRI] The conclusion that we draw is that it is because of the absence of political parties in Kuwait that political groups and processes are present [as published] in the press, in parliament, and in other popular forums.

[Al-Khatib] There are now some political parties in Kuwait that operate unofficially and without permission. For example, the Reform Forum, which backs the Muslim Brotherhood; the Heritage Forum, which is the mouthpiece of the Salafiyyun; and the Cultural Forum, which used to be a specific body of the Kuwaiti Shiites but which has now been declared defunct by the government.

[HAMSHAHRI] Apparently this was the forum where your like-minded thinkers were based.

[Al-Khatib] Yes, it consists of Kuwaiti national and progressive forces. On the whole, some of these parties and groups are still active, but some have been closed down. These are what the said parties back, and both the people and the government know this. All these have in fact existed for years.

[HAMSHAHRI] Why does the government not grant the parties freedom to operate? What is it afraid of? Apparently the Kuwaiti Government claims to support democracy, parliament, and free elections.

[Al-Khatib] The existence of political parties brings up the issue of a majority in parliament. If a majority is created, it will demand to form a government. They do not want this. The ruling family itself wants to be in charge of the government.

[HAMSHAHRI] We would like to ask you about women's suffrage and their right to be elected to parliament. Is this issue being considered in the Kuwaiti National Assembly?

[Al-Khatib] It is being considered, but it has its opponents.

[HAMSHAHRI] Who is opposing it?

[Al-Khatib] Religious parties do not accept it.

[HAHSMAHRI] But in Iran, which is an Islamic country with Islamic rule, women have the right to vote. In Egypt, Pakistan, and most other Islamic countries women have gained this right as well.

[Al-Khatib] If you speak to these parties, they might agree. But people in some parts of Kuwait who believe in certain traditions and look at women from a different perspective do not accept this. Unfortunately, this stems from ideas that have prevailed since before Islam, which regard women from their own particular angle.

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Khatib, what is your view of Iranian-Kuwaiti relations?

[Al-Khatib] Our region is extremely sensitive and may face many dangers in the future—something which will compel foreign forces to interfere. This can be averted through sincerity and understanding among all the Persian Gulf countries. This can be achieved on the basis of mutual respect and trust. Problems can be solved through peaceful means, talks, and cooperation so that our region will not become an arena of destructive military activities that are to no one's benefit. Everyone should be cautious when shaping their policies, because a crisis is to nobody's benefit and only wastes our wealth and hinders our progress and development on the eve of the 21st Century, when backward countries will yearn for a piece of bread. This is a momentous challenge and we hope that the regional countries will understand their responsibilities and will solve problems through peaceful means. This is our wish.

[HAMSHAHRI] What is your view of the massive military and political presence of the Westerners and Americans in Kuwait?

[Al-Khatib] I believe that the main reason for the military presence in the region is the regional countries' policies. These are dangerous policies which prepare the way for such interference. If the policies of regional countries were wise and were coupled with cooperation and friendship, no foreign power could enter the region. We should not reproach others for events. We are constantly trying to reproach others. But I believe that before anything else we should criticize ourselves and our own policies. It is these policies that have brought us to this point, and I do not think that anybody is happy about this.

## Saudi Arabia

### Arab Exoneration Should Make U.S. Review Priorities

*MM2404115895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 9*

[Editorial: "Sincere Word for the U.S. Citizen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the revelation of the implication of armed racist right-wing groups in the Oklahoma City bombing, a feeling of satisfaction has prevailed in Arab and Muslim circles in the United States.

Every Arab and every Muslim is entitled to express his feeling of satisfaction despite the fact that there are tragic conditions over which the U.S. citizen is trying to hold back his tears following the Oklahoma City catastrophe.

True, the disaster is painful and the crime is heinous, and whatever is said in its condemnation and whatever the rational mind's demand for a severe punishment for the perpetrators, words cannot describe its ugliness and the lack of humanity and conscience among its perpetrators.

But it is also true that the accusing finger—with all kinds of ugliness, racism, and terrorism—has for the first time in years been pointed at another party. This is why we are entitled to express our satisfaction despite our deep sympathy for the innocent victims and their families.

Arabs and Muslims in the United States in particular and in Western states in general lived for three decades with a terrible fear in which the word "terrorist" became a synonym of the word "Arab." Then the two words "fundamentalist" and "extremist" became synonyms of the word "Muslim."

Arabs and Muslims were not consulted over this collective judgment. Hence Arabs or Muslims became "guilty" until proven innocent... at airports, on roads, and even inside their homes and stores. Regrettably, all this happened in states upholding human rights—states that are proud of their application of the law and justice.

The prosecution has now an opportunity to reconsider the victim's case—the victim at whom any accusation is leveled at any time and in any circumstances.

The most important thing is that this rare opportunity gives the prosecution the chance to rescue itself from a danger it has long ignored. Sociologists in the United States, Britain, Germany, and France have on numerous occasions warned of the phenomenon of the violence molded with racism, which is spreading like a cancer in the body of the advanced industrial states. But decision-makers preferred to avoid provoking pressure tendencies and blocs in election campaigns. While U.S. society surrendered to the pressures of the armament "lobby" and ignored the individual's right to acquire arms and to train in their use and to form armed groups, British society, for example, ignored the racist groups using clubs and sports grounds as places in which to spread their poisons, and German society ignored the neo-Nazi organizations until their crimes turned into an international crisis of confidence.

What is more serious is that the crisis strikes at the heart of political thinking and the view of the state's role and concept. And the ostensibly acceptable political theories that have prevailed over the past 20 years regarding the need to reduce the state's role and intervention and "to get the state off the individual's back" were bound to produce an undisciplined society that snubs social solidarity, scorns the weak, looks down on foreigners, and tendentiously looks for an easy victim to hold responsible for its own economic and political failures. If racism was the natural outcome of this lame logic in the past, the same is happening at present.

In view of this serious turning point, we say that the United States, especially as it is the power in charge of the so-called "new world order," has a chance to reorganize the priorities of human coexistence in civilized political societies. The march must begin from within, namely by reexamining current slogans, their meaning, and their potential outcome.

And if there are many who do not share the view of U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich regarding the concept of the "contract with America" being implemented, they must prepare an alternative "contract" with the U.S. people and the world as a whole—a contract based on respect for people... all people, regardless of their color, religion, culture, and traditions.

## United Arab Emirates

### Zayid, Christopher View Ties, Developments Over Phone

*JN2504062095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tonight.

The Emirates News Agency said that the telephone call dealt with bilateral relations and regional developments.

### Heir Apparent Views Dubayy, Regional Issues

*MM2004200795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Apr 95 p 5*

[Interview with Dubayy Heir Apparent Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Dubayy; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-'Umayr] Now that the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution permitting Iraq to sell oil, what do you yourself think of this resolution?

[Bin-Rashid] Following the statement I made last January, two American ministers came to me and asked me to clarify what I had said. I told them I adhere to what I have said and continue to do so.

As I had previously said, when Kuwait was suffering we joined in defending it. Today, the people of Iraq are the ones suffering. I have frankly told all responsible officials, Arab and foreign alike, that we should stand by Iraq and its people.

Thank God, the embargo has been lifted, albeit partially. The rest is on the way. When I asked for the lifting of the embargo, I was expressing my love for the Kuwaitis as I called upon them to build bridges of peace and love so that the Iraqi people would not remain ignored, because the Iraqis are their brethren. I also told them that they should seize the opportunity now because once the embargo on Iraq is lifted, all talk about reconciliation and cordiality will not find any listening ears [from the Iraqis]. They said: How about the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons. I told them that thousands of Palestinians are still in prisons, yet the Palestinians are talking with the Israelis. The question is: Should we cast Iraq and the Iraq people out of the Arab nation's fold?

We tried keeping Egypt out, but that was a catastrophe whose lesson we must learn. Shaykh Zayid [UAE ruler] was the first to call for the return of Egypt to the Arab nation's fold. This is what we should do now, because what is happening around us is a game of nations toward which we must be on the alert. This is why I say that I stand by what I have said and I continue to adhere to it.

[Al-'Umayr] What is the mechanism you believe should be set up for bringing Iraq back into, or Iraq returning to, the fold of the Arab nation?

[Bin-Rashid] Undoubtedly Iraq was wrong to occupy Kuwait. But shall we keep harping on the mistakes committed by our leaderships? If we continue punishment for mistakes that are committed, a time will come when no Arab can shake hands with another Arab. This is because numerous things have happened in the past but we cannot stop at them for ever. The time has come for us to pay attention to ourselves and to cohere so that we may be able to stand against this current that is crushing the entire world now.

The embargo on Iraq might continue for several months or perhaps a year. But it is bound to be lifted in the end. Hence it is better for the Kuwaiti brothers to demand their rights and present their claims now, realizing at the same time that these problems should not prevent the establishment of normal relations, because it is only through such relations that solutions for the problems can be found and rights regained. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Since we are talking about the Gulf, please let me ask you about the defense organization whose formation has been the subject of constant talk. What is this organization and will it realize the defense objectives pinned upon it by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries?

[Bin-Rashid] There were numerous views about this matter. Some thought it would be better to reinforce the Desert Shield forces with more men and hardware, and you must have heard the figures quoted in this regard. However, some other countries including the UAE and Saudi Arabia felt that there should be self-building by the GCC armies and that these armies should form a reserve for that nucleus, the Desert Shield, provided that this force is reinforced by a lesser number than was proposed for several reasons, including the guaranteeing of efficiency of training and the giving of the opportunity to this nucleus to acquaint itself with the region so we do not throw large numbers of men into one region at a high cost, because a large number of forces would require installations and expenses that are equal to the building of a state army.

For this reason, we felt that the self-building of the forces was better. I am confident that we are proceeding with sound steps. We have great hopes in all the steps we have already taken.

[Al-'Umayr] Many voices have been raised about purchases of arms. Would these purchases not have an effect on the development plan? Are the Gulf countries in need of such purchases?

[Bin-Rashid] The Gulf countries have their commitments. But all countries, even the nascent ones, are in need of an army compatible with their sizes and needs. The realization of the maximum benefit from the purchases stems from a profound and deep evaluation of needs based on the premise that in the final analysis all the armies of the Gulf region constitute in fact one army.

[Al-'Umayr] With regard to Iran, alongside the political conflicts there are financial conflicts pertaining to moneys due to Dubayy traders from Iran. How do you envision the solution of this problem?

[Bin-Rashid] I believe that there is no such problem. The Iranian businessmen adhere to their commitments and I do not believe that there are any complaints. True, there were some pending commitments in the past, but they have now been paid. We and Iran are neighbors and we look upon it as a Muslim country with whom we have a political issue. But this should not prevent the continuation of individual dealings.

We urge Iran to resolve the political issue of the islands either through negotiations or through arbitration. We hope to reach a solution for this problem.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you support the escalating tone of statements against Iran?

[Bin-Rashid] What do you mean by the escalating tone? Do you mean with regard to the islands?

[Al-'Umayr] The islands and other matters that were raised on some occasions.

[Bin-Rashid] This exchange of statements, whether on our part or on theirs, has impeded the dialogue. The statements made by the Iranians inside and outside the mosques have been the cause for delay in our delegation traveling to Tehran. Likewise, due to statements uttered in some Gulf countries, no Iranian delegation came to talk to us. These altercations have halted our delegations, but other individual dealings have not been affected by them.

[Al-'Umayr] Is there any UAE visualization of how the relations with Iran should be?

[Bin-Rashid] Our relations with Iran is one of neighborhood with an Islamic country and they are good. But the pending issues, and I mean the question of the islands, have been obstructing some things. But this does not mean that good relations do not exist. This is the policy that the UAE constantly affirms.

[Al-'Umayr] You have yesterday returned 20 Israelis from the Dubayy Airport. What does this act mean as far as the UAE is concerned?

[Bin-Rashid] To be frank, I was busy yesterday and so far I have not received a report about what actually happened, and whether this matter was true or not. The important thing, however, is our point of view. As I have previously said, some Arab countries have now established relations with Israel and signed agreements with it. But we in the UAE have been brought up learning that Israel was the enemy of the Arabs. Since the days of my childhood, I have been hearing such talk. Do you think we should forget all that and extend our hand to Israel so quickly?

We, brother, do not tell the Arab countries how to direct their policies. But we tell them that when we achieve peace—that is not in words only—then we would be ready to cooperate even with the devil. What I mean is that when complete peace is established and all the Palestinian and Arab rights are regained and the Golan is returned to Syria, then we can talk about [making peace with Israel]. But right now we have our reservations. Yet, as I have already said, despite our reservations, we do not wish to decide policies for the Arab countries. However, we cannot ignore the fact that what is happening is not compatible with the concept of just peace. I repeat that we support the just and comprehensive peace to which we aspire.

The European countries, for example, have failed to honor their commitments toward the Palestinians. Where is the peace they are talking about, then? Does not this mean that peace was still mere words? We shall continue to have our reservations until the Arab brothers achieve their rights and until the vision becomes clear.

[Al-'Umayr] Why do you and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom oppose the idea of the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank?

[Bin-Rashid] Tell me first what for they want the Bank established and to help whom? We will have no benefit from this bank and it might even be a burden on us, particularly as it will include Israel. Thus I believe that the officials of the UAE and Saudi Arabia are right in rejecting the idea of the Bank. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Do you suffer from the so-called fundamentalist threat in the UAE?

[Bin-Rashid] I do not know why do they say fundamentalist threat. I do not call it fundamentalist or anything else. I call a Muslim a Muslim and a criminal a criminal. I deal with the Muslim as a Muslim and I deal with the criminal as a criminal. We support and favor all those who want to draw nearer to God or to give advice to people or bring people closer to God. But it is wrong to say fundamentalists or extremists, because there are no fundamentalist Muslims in Islam. There is a Muslim and there is a criminal. I deal with the Muslim as a Muslim and with the criminal as a criminal.

Frankly, I deny that there are any fundamentalists or extremists. Islam is Islam and the Koran is our constitution and our prophet is Muhammad, may God bless his soul and grant him grace. Those who commit acts of sabotage, I call them saboteurs and not extremists.

The Egyptian ambassador came to me one day and commented on a news report saying something was carried out by extremists. I told him there are no extremists in Islam. Anyone who looks at history will find that it abounds with movements that used religion as a cover to achieve their ends.

Thank God, we in the UAE always exchange views, and we welcome anyone who has something and wants to say it. There are no extremists among us. We call things by their names: we call the criminal a criminal and the saboteur a saboteur. [passage omitted]

### Cabinet Approves Execution of Drug Dealers, Smugglers

*JN2404150595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 24 Apr (WAKH)—The Council of Ministers in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has approved a draft law stipulating the execution of drug smugglers and dealers, and the imprisonment of drug users for not less than four years.

This came during the Council of Ministers' weekly session, which was held today under His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the UAE vice president, prime minister, and governor of Dubayy. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### Al-Iryani Receives South Korean, British Envoys

*JN2304133395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received (Wang Yi), head of the West Asia and Africa Department at the Korean Foreign Ministry, who conveyed a message from [South] Korean Foreign Minister Kong No-myong.

The message deals with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. The Korean ambassador attended the meeting and discussed with al-Iryani bilateral relations and ways to promote and enhance them.

Dr. al-Iryani also received Douglas Gordon, UK Ambassador to our country, who handed him a letter from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd dealing with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

### Dialogue Not Aimed at Socialist Return to Power

*MM2504075895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 4*

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Sanaa Denies Dialogue Aimed at Socialist Party's Return to Power"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Yemeni political sources in Sanaa have stressed that the current dialogue between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is no more than "a dialogue between the authorities and the opposition."

The sources denied that the current dialogue is aimed at returning the YSP to power. The sources said that there is a coalition, and if the YSP wants to return to power, it can only be done through the ballot box, namely through the parliamentary elections to be held in April 1997.

The sources expressed surprise at reports of the demand for guarantees for the return of a number of YSP leaders not included on the list of the 16 people wanted on charges of high treason.

The sources said that the guarantees offered to a number of Socialist Party leaders who have returned to the country will be offered to others. [passage omitted]

### National Assembly 'Unanimously' Rejects 986

*JN2504100195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0957 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has unanimously and categorically rejected the U.S.-styled Resolution 986, and decided not to deal with it since it violates the legal principles stipulated in the UN Charter.

The National Assembly said Resolution 986 encroaches on Iraq's sovereignty, flagrantly interferes in its domestic affairs, and restricts Iraq's right to the free use of its natural resources.

The report of the committees that was unanimously endorsed by the Assembly clarifies that the political goals of U.S.-styled Resolution 986 are to mislead the world and to ease the growing pressures to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and lift the unjust blockade imposed on them. They are also aimed at weakening official and popular international sympathy with Iraq's people, maintaining the blockade as long as possible to curb Iraq's Arab and international role, humiliating the genuine Iraqi people, resisting the right legal interpretation of Resolution 687 and Paragraph 22, and blocking efforts inside and outside the Security Council to lift the blockade on Iraq.

In their speeches during the session, the members agreed that the resolution, which has met with vigorous popular rejection since its announcement, cannot be accepted because it is aimed at circumventing the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687, although Iraq has met all its obligations toward the Security Council's resolutions despite their unfairness.

Assembly member Raja' al-Shawi said that the resolution was aimed at serving the interests of the colonialist states rather than those of the Iraqi people by using Iraq's money to rectify the UN budget deficit, which has resulted from a U.S. refusal to pay its contribution to the United Nations amounting to $300 million, and to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security by deploying observers and inspectors, mostly intelligence men, who will receive their salaries from the Iraqi people.

She stressed her rejection of the U.S. resolution, which she described as contemptuous of the Iraqi citizen, offering him bread mixed with humiliation and insult.

Assembly member 'Aziz Jalal said the infamous Resolution 986 was the result of an illegitimate marriage between Resolutions 706 and 712, which exposes the evil intentions of those who worked out the resolution that encroaches on the dignity and humanity of the Iraqi citizen.

He added: We reject this resolution, and we have to continue our steadfastness and confrontation of all the resolutions worked out by the CIA and Zionism.

Assembly member Dr. Sawsan Shakir expressed support for the committees' report, which rejected the resolution, and said this resolution is a malicious attempt to perpetuate the siege, undermine Iraqi national unity, and change the factors of national strength into factors that weaken the Iraqi body.

She emphasized that the Iraqi people have no choice other than continuing patience and steadfastness in face of the U.S. satan until he bows down defeated.

Assembly member Muhammad 'Abd-al-Baqi described the resolution as subjugation to the U.S. hegemony and the humiliation and slavery it entails.

Najah al-Samarmad and Muhammad Muzaffar al-Adhami questioned the usefulness of Iraq's membership in the United Nations, which is idly watching the mass annihilation the United States is practicing against the Iraqi people through continuing the siege imposed on them.

Assembly member Walid Ghanim al-Tawil said that the determination by the resolution of the way to export Iraqi oil and the mechanism of sale and purchase confirms the malicious U.S. intentions and the Security Council's lack of credibility, which is deteriorating every day due to the double standard policy it is pursuing in accordance with the U.S. will.

Assembly member Ghazi 'Abd-al-Hamid said all sons of the people are now convinced that the malicious U.S. resolution violates Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and national unity and cannot be accepted. From this premise, the people's representatives in the National Assembly have rejected this resolution, which is considered another conspiracy by the U.S. Administration against the sons of Iraq.

The joint report of the assembly's standing committees has recommended continued cooperation with the Security Council, adherence to Iraq's right to implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and demands that the Iraqi funds frozen abroad be used to purchase food, medicines, and other humanitarian requirements in order to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering. It also recommended that Iraq make diplomatic and parliamentary moves on the Arab and international levels to explain its position rejecting the U.S. resolution.

In the session held under Ghanim 'Aziz Khaduri, the National Assembly hosted Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad to discuss the dimensions of U.S. Resolution 986 and its negative repercussions on the way in which Iraqi oil will be exported as is stipulated in this malicious resolution.

During the session, part of which was attended by the Turkish parliamentary delegation led by Zeki Celiker, the oil minister explained to the National Assembly the mechanism included in U.S. Resolution 986 regarding Iraqi oil exports and the restrictions it imposes on even the small quantities of oil Iraq is allowed to export, which is not based on its capacity as an independent state that has the right to dispense with its resources, but based on the requests of the states desiring to purchase oil, and on the assessment by the UN Security Council and its competent committees on the implementation of this resolution even on the level of prices.

The oil minister said: The mechanism of the resolution is complicated, something that can make it stop at any time deemed necessary by any of the members of the monitoring committees that will be formed by the council to implement the resolution. This is in addition to the fact that this mechanism constitutes a major obstacle to the speedy movement of oil exports in accordance with the known fast commercial processes. The resolution has also imposed on Iraq coercive ways to export its oil which do not take into consideration its true will or the choice of oil outlets it deems appropriate.

The oil minister said that the objective of U.S. Resolution 986 is to fight Iraq by determining the least quantity possible for exportation, which ranges between 600 to 700 barrels per day, to make the least possible revenue for Iraq, which does not meet the simplest needs of the Iraqi people.

He said that Iraq's production capacity is currently 2 million barrels per day, and that this can be increased to 3 million barrels per day two months after lifting the blockade. He noted that Iraq's current exportation capacity through al-Bakr Port is approximately 1.8 million barrels per day.

## Foreign Minister Addresses Session

*NC2504075295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1927 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has adjourned its discussions which started today on the U.S.-styled Resolution 986.

The assembly decided to reconvene tomorrow morning to continue discussing the resolution and its dimensions and repercussions.

Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih addressed today's session. He said the UN Security Council, working on the basis of the resolution it adopted, has renewed the embargo on Iraq's people. The council, he said, has not lifted the resolution, for humanitarian reasons it is alleged.

Salih stressed the need for the people's representatives to discuss the priorities of this resolution, the circumstances surrounding it, and the dangers for Iraq should it accept the resolution.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf addressed the assembly members. He reviewed the background of U.S.-brokered Resolution 986 and how the resolution was adopted. He started with the visit to Baghdad in 1991 by the UN secretary general's envoy Mart Ehtisari [name as transliterated] to study the deteriorating conditions in Iraq as a result of the 30-state military aggression. The UN envoy's visit was aimed at examining the suffering of Iraq's sons as a result of the shortage of food and medication due to the continuing measures of the multifaceted international embargo.

The foreign minister noted that Iraqi officials and Ehtisari discussed the idea of Iraq selling its oil to enable it to obtain food, medicine, and the prerequisites for energy and human services. These were pure Iraqi proposals, which were accepted by Ehtisari, the foreign minister added. Accordingly, the UN envoy submitted a report to the UN secretary general. But he could not continue his efforts because he had to give up his post to lead Finland's representation. This prompted the secretary general to dispatch Sadruddin Aga Khan as his envoy to Iraq in 1991.

In his address, the foreign minister said the report submitted by Aga Khan following his visit to Iraq, a report that stressed Iraq's humanitarian needs for food and medication, failed to obtain the support of the United States and its allies.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf then revealed the dimensions of the U.S.-British conspiracy, which aims at maintaining the embargo on the Iraqi people and at obstructing every attempt to implement Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 as a prelude to lifting the embargo on Iraq. He said this resolution deviates from the two reports submitted by the two envoys of the UN secretary general. There was no similarity between the resolution and the two reports. Al-Sahhaf said the series of measures adopted to pass the resolution did not emerge through UN channels. It was rather a political measure drafted by the United States, he said.

Continuing, the foreign minister said Resolution 986 is part of the political attempts by the U.S. Administration to distract attention from implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. This paragraph gained the support of most UN Security Council member states after Iraq honored all its commitments in accordance with council resolutions, despite the injustice of these resolutions.

The foreign minister stressed that Resolution 986 is a desperate attempt to weaken Iraq, a country that is supported by people everywhere—individuals and organizations. He said the U.S. Administration tried to exploit the resolution as a political maneuver to get rid of public pressure to lift the embargo.

The foreign minister stated that Resolution 986 directly harms Iraq's sovereignty and security and threatens its territorial integrity by maintaining the state of treason and secession led by the misled and agent cliques in the Kurdistan autonomous region.

The foreign minister added that the technical pretexts regarding the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 have become extremely trivial, as Ekeus himself admits, and that patience and hard work will be our approach toward confronting the enemies, in a future that favors Iraq.

He pointed out that the French-Russian-Chinese draft resolution, to be submitted to the Security Council following Ekeus' submission of a report confirming Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations toward the Security Council, focuses on a single principle, namely, that Iraq has done what it was required to do and that the Security Council must lift the oil embargo and allow Iraq to exercise its trade life.

The foreign minister then answered questions by members of the National Assembly on the serious dimensions of the U.S.-brokered Resolution 986 and the clauses therein that undermine Iraq's dignity, sovereignty, and security. Asked why the U.S. resolution was passed unanimously even though several Security Council member states were against it, al-Sahhaf said: The friends at the Security Council voted for the resolution based on considerations that they believed would be humanitarian if Iraq accepted the resolution. They also wanted to avert a political confrontation with the United States in preparation for implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 following Iraq's refusal of the U.S. resolution [sentence as received].

In his answers, al-Sahhaf stressed that the malicious U.S. resolution, unlike Resolutions 706 and 712, cannot be compulsorily implemented and that it serves a political purpose only, namely, to ease the burden of the world's pressure on the United States, for humanitarian reasons. He pointed out that Iraq, in consultation with friends in the Security Council, submitted amendments to Resolution 986 to modify some of its articles to refute the U.S. pretexts. But the Americans outlined a limit that Iraq should not exceed in introducing these amendments and later passed the ill-reputed resolution.

The foreign minister noted that the Security Council's regular revisions of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people will continue in accordance with the mechanism applicable within the Security Council and that Iraq will continue its legitimate demands, in cooperation with its friends, to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. He emphasized that the steadfastness of Iraq, a Third World country, has aborted the new world order led by the United States.

In his answers, the foreign minister reviewed the main points in the U.S. resolution that undermine Iraq's sovereignty through the actions and dealings undertaken by bodies to be named by the Security Council, not Iraq. In addition, the resolution turns Iraq into a relief-seeker and denies it the right to make decisions. They [not further specified] prepare in advance for supporting the state of separation and consecrating the partitioning of Iraq by supporting the agent cliques in the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

The assembly then adjourned its evening session. It is scheduled to hold another session at 1000 tomorrow to continue the debate on the malicious U.S.-brokered Resolution 986.

At the end of the session, an INA correspondent met with assembly members to explore their views regarding the malicious resolution. Assembly member Sayf-al-Din Mahmud al-Mashhadani noted that the U.S. resolution is a political game led by the United States. Assembly member 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Jannabi pointed out that, economically, the resolution seeks to plunder Iraq's oil resources, deprive Iraq of its will, and deny it its natural right to a dignified life and, accordingly, it must be rejected.

Assembly member Rahim Hadi Shamkhi called on the international community to adopt positive steps toward lifting the embargo after Iraq complied with its obligations. Assembly member 'Abd-al-Karim Jihad noted that the malicious U.S. resolution constitutes a legal violation of the human rights convention and international charters.

### Session Adjourns

*JN2404193595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has adjourned its discussions which started today on the U.S.-styled Resolution 986.

The assembly decided to reconvene tomorrow morning to continue discussions on the resolution and its dimensions and repercussions.

### UN Envoy al-Zahawi Calls NPT 'Serious Default'

*JN2504095295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Apr (INA)—Iraq has reaffirmed its commitment to the Arab position which states that entrenching a fait accompli by making the Middle Eastern states, with the exception of Israel, abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is a serious default that threatens the region's security and stability, and hence cannot be accepted.

In a speech to the NPT conference today, Monday, Wisam al-Zahawi, Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican and head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, said: The more urgent executive steps that are needed now include setting up a specific timetable to reduce and abolish nuclear weapons, ensuring the universality of the treaty, and creating an indiscriminate system to transfer nuclear technologies to nonnuclear states that are members of the treaty.

Al-Zahawi said: What Iraq experienced in 1981 may be repeated in the future against other states. There is a party which still refuses to join the NPT and which was able, through covert and illegitimate means, to acquire nuclear weapons with the knowledge of, and help from certain well-known nuclear states. That party, Israel, took the law into its own hands and launched an attack against the installations of another party, Iraq, which is a member of the treaty and whose installations are subject to the safeguards system. This system did not provide the other party with security. Nor did it guarantee that that party's installations will not be attacked or that such an attack will not be repeated in the future, although the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] considered that attack an aggression, not only against Iraq, but also against the IAEA itself and against the safeguards system.

He said that the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the IAEA against the aggressor remained ink on paper and the UN Security Council did not do anything to implement its own resolutions because the officials of a certain nuclear state think that Israel has the right to possess nuclear weapons and to use them as it wishes.

The Iraqi diplomat added that the super nuclear power—the United States—defends Israel's positions and floods it with nuclear, financial, and military aid. He stressed that various states lack guarantees for their security, safety, and rights in view of the double-standards policy. He stressed that the guarantees given will be useless if these states are subject to aggression and destroyed.

Referring to Paragraph 14 of Resolution 687, al-Zahawi said: That paragraph stipulates that the measures taken against Iraq are part of steps aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Nothing has happened to implement that paragraph. The only party that possess nuclear weapons in the region strongly refuses to join the treaty, and is being supported by a superpower.

Ambassador al-Zahawi said he regrets that the state in question [the United States] has rescinded implementation of Paragraph 14 while it keeps silent over the intransigence of the rejectionist party and, at the same time, exerts efforts to force the other states in the region to commit themselves indefinitely to the conditions of the NPT and to abandon their legitimate right to equality and preserve their own security and safety.

Al-Zahawi called on the NPT conference not to allow discrimination and injustice. He warned that the continuation of this discrimination, which exempts a certain party from the treaty's conditions and obligations, will compel more than one party to make a move to regain justice and balance. He said: If a balance had existed from the beginning, the world would not have seen the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## Russian Energy Minister Pays Official Visit

### Says Iraq Has Honored All Commitments

*JN2404105595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad met here today with Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and his delegation, who are currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of promoting the prospects for bilateral cooperation in the areas of oil, the exploitation of oil fields, and the implementation of joint projects between the two friendly countries.

The Russian minister of fuel and energy hoped that the economic sanctions clamped on the people of Iraq will be lifted, and that their suffering will be alleviated, particularly since Iraq has honored all its commitments as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

### Says Visit To Produce 'Huge Project'

*JN2404112395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has commended Russian-Iraqi ties and described them as strong. He added that these ties will undergo further improvement in the future.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the Russian minister went on to say: We are happy with and proud of this visit, which is a clear indication of the efforts to promote cooperation between the two friendly countries. This visit will produce a huge project to promote the interests of the Russian and Iraqi peoples.

The Russian minister said: We are working to make the necessary preparations so that we may start implementing oil projects in Iraq. It is necessary that we make these preparations now so that we may begin this endeavor once the sanctions are lifted.

Yuriy Shafranik called for lifting the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, saying: Speedy moves must be made with the help of Iraq's friends to ease its sufferings, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled its relevant commitments.

The Russian minister added that Russia and Iraq will examine joint moves to bring about a revocation of the sanctions.

### Presents Gifts to Saddam

*JN2404133195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, head of the government delegation currently visiting Iraq. The delegation includes Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister.

During the meeting, the Russian minister presented two gifts on behalf of the delegation to President Saddam Husayn. The first is a photograph of his excellency with a former Soviet premier taken during the inauguration of the project of direct exploitation of Iraqi oil at the al-Rumaylah oil fields. The picture commemorates his excellency's role in the liberation of Iraqi oil wealth from foreign monopoly. The second gift is a bronze statue of a knight from Russian folklore.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad.

### Views Future Oil Cooperation

*JN2404194095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Four technical Iraqi-Russian committees opened meetings here tonight to outline the features of the future oil cooperation between the two countries.

An official source at the Iraqi Oil Ministry expressed satisfaction with the progress of the work of the committees and the atmosphere in which the discussions between the two sides are being held. He said the discussions reflect the two country's true desire to lay the foundations of their joint oil cooperation on the basis of their close bilateral relations.

The official oil talks between Iraq and Russia started this morning. The Iraqi side was led by Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad, while the Russian side was led by Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik.

The two sides agreed to set up four committees to exchange views on ways of promoting cooperation between Iraq and Russia in the spheres of oil industries, led by the exploitation of oil fields, developing refineries and the oil industry, and implementing joint oil projects in preparation for signing a cooperation agreement between the two friendly countries.

In his statement to INA, the Iraqi oil source noted that the two sides are also discussing the bases for forming a joint oil company between the two countries and for cooperation in the field of digging oil wells and supplying spare parts and the requirements of developing refinery units.

He indicated that also among the main topics of the Russian-Iraqi talks is the resumption of work at the suspended oil projects, especially the al-Qurnah oil fields exploitation project.

The Iraqi oil official expressed Iraq's eagerness to bolster oil cooperation with Russia. He said that the Russian side has shown the same eagerness to renew oil cooperation with Iraq.

He stressed that the two sides are looking forward to cooperation that is not only reminiscent of, but exceeds, the cooperation that existed in the early seventies, which witnessed the start of their joint action represented by direct exploitation of the al-Rumaylah oil fields in al-Basrah, southern Iraq.

He indicated that the gift that the Russian oil delegation under Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik presented to President Saddam Husayn today reflects Russia's desire to restore its close cooperation with Iraq. [passage omitted]

### Meets Minister on 'Joint Interests'

*JN2404204295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, today met with Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik.

Hasan praised the friendly relations between Iraq and Russia and stressed Iraq's eagerness to promote industrial, oil, and economic ties in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

For his part, Shafranik stressed that his country is eager to promote relations with Iraq in all areas for the benefit of their joint interests.

Hasan then met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Pusovalyuk. They exchanged views on promoting trade exchange between the two friendly countries and ways to promote it.

### Discusses Cooperation With 'Aziz

*JN2404203395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1833 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and the delegation accompanying him today.

'Aziz and Shafranik discussed relations between Iraq and Russia and the two sides' desire to resume fruitful cooperation which united the two countries within the framework of a long friendship in service of their legitimate national interests.

The two sides stressed the need to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, especially since it has fulfilled all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

Attending the meeting were Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad, the Iraqi ambassador to Russia, and the Russian ambassador to Iraq.

### Daily Praises 'Redoubling' of Oil Operations

*JN2304171995 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 95 p 4*

[Article by Aghadir Mahdi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marking our country's celebration of the 23d anniversary of direct national exploitation of oil on 7 April, workers in the oil sector's companies and enterprises have risen to the occasion by redoubling their efforts to meet the country's needs for oil products and exerting maximum effort to exploit the oil wealth that God bestowed on the good land of Iraq, thereby defying all forms of open plundering of our oil wealth and placing Iraq on the correct path of advancement and prosperity.

The Oil Ministry organized an orientation tour for representatives of the local press to several oil sites in al-Tamim, Bayji, and Baghdad. Our first visit was to the State Enterprise for Gas Processing in the northern region. To get an idea about the enterprise's achievements, we met with its Director General Riyad 'Abd Ghassab who said: The enterprise was established in 1979 for the purpose of processing gas, which is mixed with oil, and converting it into liquefied gas, dry gas, and sulfur for domestic as well as industrial uses, such as the production of petrochemicals and fertilizers. [passage omitted]

Ghassab added: The enterprise consists of two production lines with a daily production capacity of 4,000 tonnes of liquefied gas. However, due to the circumstances of the blockade, the enterprise is operating with one production line at 80 percent of its capacity. The enterprise sustained heavy damage due to savage bombing during the treacherous 30-state aggression. But the reconstruction teams managed to carry out the repairs within a period of 15 days at a cost of 5.5 million dinars.

Our second visit was to the Northern Oil Company where we met with Engineer 'Abd-al-Wahhab Bahjat al-Shaykh Qadir, director of the Planning and Follow-up Department, who said: The company's activities presently cover a vast area which includes almost the entire northern half of the country. It begins from a point on Latitude 32.5 south of al-Kut and extends north to the Turkish border, west to the Syrian border, and east to the Iranian border. Our work is centered on producing crude oil and gas from the oilfields to supply the refineries and gas industry establishments and to export oil via a network of pipelines, including the second Iraqi-Turkish pipeline.

Engineer Qadir continued: The company has contributed to several new projects, including the development and preparation of several fields for production to increase the company's production capacity and the implementation of the underground storage project. We have ambitious plans to develop several fields, including Saddam Oilfield; Khirmalah Oilfield, which is a promising giant field; Hamrin Oilfield; the central region oil; Khabbaz Oilfield, and other new oilfields that have been discovered in the western Iraqi desert since the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

The press delegation then visited the State Enterprise for Oil Refining in the northern region—the Bayji Refineries—where it met with its Director General Engineer 'Ali Hamid Muhammad who said: The Bayji Refineries complex now operates with all its units and with a good production capacity following the addition of a second-hand refining unit to increase the capacity of the complex, which produces liquefied gas, white oil, gas oil, black oil, aircraft fuel, and five types of car oils, in addition to other by-products that the complex plans to produce to meet local market needs such as heavy grease. Our technical personnel have also modified one of the units at Hadithah Refinery for the first time in order to produce coal oil. [passage omitted]

Our fourth visit was to the Oil Training Institute in Bayji, which is considered an important educational edifice for training personnel with medium skills to work in oil establishments. Its director Engineer Riyad Raja' Khalaf told us that the institute, which was established in 1951 under the old name of the Industrial Training Center, used to admit elementary school graduates. Then it decided to admit graduates from technical preparatory schools. The institute is one of the oldest in the Arab homeland. It consists of 650 male and female students, 18 fields of specialization, 18 halls, and more than 15 workshops and labs. Students graduating from this institute receive a technical diploma. The period of study in the institute is two years. The Ministry of Industry undertakes the appointment of graduates and helps admit leading graduates into universities.

## Minister Announces Inauguration of More Projects

*JN2404125595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Apr 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of leader President Saddam Husayn's birthday, Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and mineral resources and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], announced the good news about the production of four-tonne Iraqi trucks and the opening of several projects.

In a press statement at the inauguration of the project connecting al-Ishaqi Canals with Saddam River, the minister said: We are getting ready for something big which we will give to our people on 28 April, the birthday of leader President Saddam Husayn; it is the production of four-tonne trucks. The occasion will also be marked by the inauguration of another huge project which is the first of its kind; namely, the xylene project, an important petrochemical project which will be utilized by several industries. This is in addition to the copper wire projects which will also be inaugurated on 28 April. Several other important and strategic projects will open this month.

Regarding the new irrigation projects which have been carried out by our creative teams, Staff Gen. Hasan said that the next few days will also witness the inauguration of a huge irrigation project which was carried out by teams of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals transforming 500,000 donums of al-Ahwar marshland into agricultural land. Furthermore, the Euphrates River project has been restored to what it was by reconnecting it to al-Qurnah after its course had been diverted to Shatt al-'Arab, which means the reclamation of vast areas of agricultural lands which were previously submerged in water so that they can be exploited by the citizens for agriculture.

Staff Gen. Hasan affirmed that Iraq will witness major development in the agricultural field, thanks to the persistence of our strugglers who, having placed their trust in God, have proceeded to implement several irrigation projects and add new agricultural lands as their strong retort to the aggression and the aggressors. The projects include Saddam River, diversion of the Euphrates River, al-'Izz River, and 'Ibadah River, as well as al-Dulu'iyah project, Saddam River projects in Kirkuk, and the opening of several industrial projects which serve the needs of the peasants, such as the production of trailers, irrigation pumps, fertilizers, and insecticides.

### Turkish Delegation Arrives, To Meet Saddam

*NC2504074495 Paris AFP in English 0707 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 25 (AFP)—A delegation of Turkish MPs has arrived here for a five-day visit expected to include a meeting with President Saddam Husayn, officials said Tuesday [25 April].

The trip comes as Turkish troops continue their operations in northern Iraq against Kurdish rebels. Baghdad has called for an immediate withdrawal and criticised meetings between Turkish diplomats and Iraqi Kurdish leaders.

The MPs, who are not officially representing the Turkish parliament, arrived Monday night at the invitation of the Iraqi parliamentary speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

The delegation is headed by Zeki Celiker, deputy chairman of the Turkish parliamentarians association, which groups current and former MPs.

He said before leaving that the delegation was due to meet the Iraqi president and called for the "resumption of relations in all domains" between the two countries.

### Turkey Said To Withdraw Over Half Remaining Forces

*NC2504100795 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Diyarbakir, Turkey, April 25 (AFP)—Turkey withdrew more than half its remaining forces from northern Iraq Tuesday [25 April] with the return of 20,000 of its troops, a spokesman for the Turkish general staff said here.

Following the withdrawal of 3,000 men on April 7 and 8, Ankara's forces remaining in the region following its massive military operation against rebel Kurdish bases in northern Iraq now number around 10,000 men, spokesman Dogu Silahcioglu said.

### Paper Notes 'Contradictions' in Christopher Remarks

*JN2404123095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 2*

[From the "Standpoint" column by Hadi Daniyal: "Christopher's Contradictions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oscillating between stupidity and insolence, the U.S. secretary of state says his country's support for Turkey's invasion of northern Iraq depends on the invaders respecting human rights. The contradictions entailed by this statement are an insult to human intelligence.

The first contradiction is that the invasion is an act of violence which is aimed at hunting down a group of human beings; namely, Turkish Kurds who are demanding recognition of their national rights which are guaranteed by the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The U.S Administration is supporting a government which is violating the rights of millions of Kurds within its territory and is chasing them across the border, thereby committing the compound crime of invading the territory of another country and violating the security of its citizens.

The second contradiction is that having strongly pressed for the creation of a status quo in northern Iraq, thereby removing an entire region from the control of the central Iraqi Government under the excuse of creating a safe-haven for Iraqi Kurds, the U.S. Administration has turned this region into a bloody jungle where agents have gone on the rampage, plundering, killing, and destroying. The U.S.-backed invasion has also caused further loss of security and violation of Kurdish human rights at the hands of U.S. and Turkish agents.

The third contradiction is that the U.S. Administration did not spare any means following the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait to establish the alleged violation of human rights by these forces in Kuwait. It resorted to all kinds of lies and fabrications which were soon exposed, such as the lie about the incubators. Yet, this administration has remained silent and turned a blind eye to the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq which has so far resulted in the death of four children and one woman in Zakho and seven innocent civilians in Dahuk, not to mention many other undisclosed casualties.

This is in addition to other contradictions which confirm that the U.S. Administration does not believe in human rights in the first place. U.S. history is full of instances of the violation of these rights, both inside and outside the United States. Still, the U.S. Administration does not hesitate to use the human rights slogan at the appropriate time and place in order to mislead people and conceal the cogent facts. Telling lies has become a basic component of U.S. political speech.

It has become clear to whoever seeks the truth that the United States does not care about anything other than its interests, which conflict with human rights, since they are the interests of an imperialist power. In fact, the current U.S. Administration, just as the one before it, does not care about anything other than the interests of the Zionist entity.

If U.S. interests call for the region's stability, which can only be guaranteed by the stability of the situation in Iraq, Zionist interests consider the stability of Iraq and the resumption of its advancement and effective role in the region under the leadership of Saddam Husayn a strategic threat to the Zionist entity. Zionists believe that if properly exploited, by prolonging the blockade on the one hand and encouraging Turkish and Iranian ambitions and fanning the grudges of agent Arab regimes on the other, the present circumstances could help eliminate that threat, since they would keep the Iraqi Government busy ensuring food, medicine, and security for its citizens and thus delay its development.

The Turkish Government should think deeply about the future and avoid becoming a tool for enemy plans. The attempt to tamper with Iraq's security and stability may serve Tel Aviv, but it could, sooner or later, become disastrous to Ankara and the entire region.

## Saudi, Kuwaiti Support to Allied Planes Protested

*JN2304125295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (INA)—Iraq has once again informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities to U.S., French, and British aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said the aircraft violated Iraqi airspace, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 461 hostile sorties from 9 to 16 April.

A list detailing the violations was enclosed with the letter.

### Saudi Arabia Agrees to Conditions on Pilgrims

*TA2404122995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit says Saudi Arabia has agreed to Israel's demand that neither Muslims from Israel nor the territories will travel to Mecca with Palestinian documents. Instead, they will be part of a Jordanian delegation. Minister Shetrit sharply criticized Palestinian officials who, he says, caused unnecessary delay, anguish, and trouble for thousands of Muslims.

The Religious Affairs Ministry is now waiting for an announcement from the Jordanians that the transit passes for the pilgrims are ready. The hope is that they will be able to cross the Allenby Bridge tomorrow on their way to Mecca.

From the territories, 4,000 people are making the trip, while another 2,688 pilgrims from Israel are to set out for Mecca.

### Jordan Said Seeking To Include Iraq in Projects

*TA2404155995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 95 pp A1, A8*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jordan is proposing to involve Iraq in regional development plans that will be raised during the Amman business conference, slated to be held in October.

Three joint projects with Iraq are included in the proposal for projects submitted by Jordan to the Amman conference steering committee: fiber-optic communications, a railroad track, and an Iraqi refinery to be constructed in al-'Aqabah.

According to the Jordanian plan, the fiber-optic communications cables will be laid between Baghdad, Amman, and Tel Aviv. The government-funded project is slated to cost $10 million, $8 million of which will cover the cost of laying the Baghdad-Amman line. Jordan also proposes to set up a new railway between al-Zarqa' in north Jordan and Iraq. The cost of this project is expected to reach $300 million, which will be raised from the private sector.

Last week Jordan announced a plan to build an oil pipeline from Iraq. Samih Darwazah, Jordan's minister for energy and mineral resources, visited Baghdad and discussed with senior Iraqi officials this project, which was first raised during the 1980's but never implemented. The plan stipulates that during the first stage a pipeline will be laid from Hadithah in northwest Iraq to the Jordanian refinery in al-Zarqa', a distance of some 950 km. The cost of laying this pipeline is estimated at $1.4 billion. This line is slated to replace the tankers carrying the oil.

Jordan has received special permission from the UN to purchase oil in Iraq—which is currently under international sanctions—to the tune of 60,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of refined oil daily. The new line is expected to funnel up to 100,000 barrels of oil daily. During his visit in Baghdad, the Jordanian minister renewed the agreement for another year. During the second stage of the project, the pipeline will be extended to al-'Aqabah, where a new refinery will be built.

Jordan submitted to the regional steering committee a proposal for building the new refinery at a cost of $500 million. Last week Darwazah said that the oil is earmarked for Jordanian consumption and that at this point there are no plans to export Iraqi oil via Jordan.

A meeting is slated to be held between the Jordanian energy minister and Gonen Segev, his Israeli counterpart, in the near future. In the 1980's, when there were plans to lay an oil pipeline from Iraq to al-'Aqabah, there were reports that Jordan and Iraq sought an Israeli guarantee that it would not sabotage the pipeline.

A senior political source in Israel yesterday said that the Jordanians were interested in showing Iraq they were looking out for Baghdad's interests as well, which is why Jordan incorporated these joint projects into the agenda of the Amman conference. "There is no chance of the United States' agreeing to this," the senior source said. [passage omitted]

### Jordanian Envoy Said To Meet With PA Officials

*TA2504050795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's new ambassador to Israel has met with senior Palestinian Authority [PA] officials. The meeting took place at Orient House in East Jerusalem. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Knesset Member Moshe Peled of Tzomet found out about the meeting and reported it to Police Minister Shahal. The police minister said he would bring up the matter with the prime minister.

### Harish Recalls Industrial Delegation to Morocco

*TA2404141795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish decided yesterday to recall a group of industrialists who went to Morocco to participate in a packaging exhibition, after their product samples were confiscated last week by the Moroccan customs authorities, as reported exclusively yesterday by THE JERUSALEM POST.

The group was to attend an exhibition of packaging products and by-products on behalf of the Israel Export Institute [IEI]. All efforts made to obtain the release of the display, by the Foreign Ministry, Harish and David Dadon, the head of the Israeli interest section in Morocco, failed.

The Moroccan authorities then said the Israelis could present their products, but not under the auspices of the IEI.

Harish said both countries should ensure that such incidents do not recur.

### Accuses Morocco of 'Political Boycott'

*TA2504091495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Apr 95 p 8*

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish yesterday warned Morocco that its refusal to allow Israeli industrialists to participate on behalf of the Israel Export Institute at the SIPEC [expansion not given] packaging exhibition in Casablanca is liable to harm the country's economic standing.

Harish said Morocco's actions countered the principles of free world trade as encapsulated in GATT, warning that political boycotts of this type will bring sharp reactions from the US and Europe.

The group of seven industrialists will return from Morocco today after they were recalled by Harish following the confiscation of their product samples last week by the Morocco customs authorities.

All government efforts to obtain the release of the display failed.

In the end, the Moroccan authorities were only willing to let the Israelis present their products as long as they would do so independently from the Israel Export Institute.

"In this specific case of nonparticipation in the exhibit, the fight is not over the specific incident but over the message regarding relations between the countries, since one cannot make peace with a situation where a group is invited to exhibit under the auspices of the Israel Export Institute and then have the authorities back down from such commitment," said Harish.

A spokesman from the Moroccan interest section in Tel Aviv said "we have no idea about this."

### Australian Defense Minister Makes First Visit

*TA2404050495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first visit of an Australian defense minister to Israel began last night when Senator Robert Ray arrived at Israel's Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Ray, accompanied by his wife and senior Australian defense and military figures, is paying a 3-day official visit to Israel at the invitation of prime minister and defense minister, Yitzhaq Rabin.

Following a welcoming ceremony by a military band and guard of honor, the Australian minister began talks with Rabin and senior defense and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] figures. During his stay in Israel, he will also visit defense industries, attend a holocaust memorial service, and dedicate a park in Beersheba to Australian soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the Negev during the first World War.

Reporter Allen Ben-'Ami says Australia puts a high priority on equipping its small, all-volunteer defense force with the most advanced weaponry and military equipment. Significant orders of specialized Israeli items are expected to result from this visit of the Australian defense minister.

### Ministers Present Views of Labor Stand on Golan

*TA2504070895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Mikha Harish said last night that there is no consensus in Labor about withdrawing to the international border with Syria and that the prime minister believes no dramatic move on the Syrian issue should be expected soon. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Harish was speaking at a Labor rally in Tel Aviv.

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said this morning that he represents Labor's clearer position whereby in return for peace, it is prepared to agree to a full withdrawal. He added that when the issue ripens, he will support the government's position in favor of a withdrawal from the Golan.

### IDF Estimates Size of 'Disputed' Border Area

*TA2404160295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 95 pp A1, A8*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources, the size of the area in contention between the Syrian-Israeli international border and the lines of 4 June 1967, is approximately 62,800 dunams. According to another estimate, the scope of the disputed area is approximately 60,000 dunams.

The IDF prepared two staff papers on the borders between Syria and Israel prior to the peace negotiations. One document was prepared about three years ago at the General Staff's History Department, while the second paper was formulated by the Intelligence Branch. Both papers review the history of the demarcation of the international border between Syria and Eretz Yisra'el during the British Mandate, as well as subsequent cease-fire lines, demilitarized zones, border incidents prior to the 1967 war, and disputes between the two countries with regard to water pumping and fishing rights.

Syria is demanding that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights to the line that separated both countries' armies on 4 June 1967, the eve of the Six-Day War. The Syrians argue that Israel must restore all territories seized in the war. Israel has not presented an official position with regard to its future border with Syria in peacetime; however, statements by Israeli leaders indicate that the Israeli peace proposal is based on the international border.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposes making an Israeli withdrawal to the international border the basis for a Syrian-Israeli accord, on the condition that Israel's security needs are taken into account and Jerusalem retains control of the Jordan River water sources. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin speaks about the "Egyptian model" as a basis for negotiations, while making it clear that Israel has not made any commitment to Syria on reaching an agreement based on this model.

The peace treaty signed by Egypt and Israel observed the lines of the international border from the times of the British Mandate. The territories in contention between the international border and the 4 June 1967 lines are mostly situated in areas that were demilitarized following the War of Independence in 1948, and the issue of sovereignty over them remains an open question. On the ground, each country has occupied part of these areas, depending on its topographical and military capabilities. Israel claims that in the past, Syria forcibly seized territories it had no sovereign rights to. Israel is now refusing to return the following areas to Syria:

—along the northern strip of the border, Syria seized control of an area near Kibbutz Dan, near the Banias waterfalls. Kibbutz Senir, which was established after the 1967 war, currently occupies the site. The Syrians also seized Tall al-'Azazyat, whose peak straddles the international border.

—the international border ran along the mountain ridge line, to the east of the Jordan River and south of the Hula Valley, several hundred meters from the river itself. The Syrians controlled the area right up to the water's edge, and even established outposts west of the Jordan River where the river's mouth meets Lake Tiberias.

—Syria occupied a 10-meter-wide strip of land on the northwestern side of Lake Tiberias which was under full Israeli sovereignty. The Syrians controlled the demilitarized area north of Kibbutz 'En Gev and set up an outpost on Tall al-Nuqayb along the shores of Lake Tiberias.

—The Syrians controlled the al-Hammah enclave, which was part of the demilitarized area. Israel never tried to enter the area after an incident in 1951 in which Israeli policemen were killed—this, until the 1967 war.

Speaking at the last cabinet session, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that "we could not agree to a withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967." According to Israeli sources, "the international border has already served as a precedent in the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and in the 1983 agreement with Lebanon.

## IDF Reportedly Set To Begin West Bank Evacuation

*TA2504090495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Yosi Levi and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans to begin evacuating its headquarters and bases from Janin and possibly from other major Judaea and Samaria towns this year. The first stage will involve the evacuation of the Janin District.

The practical preparations for the evacuation in the framework of the Spectrum-B plan will be completed soon. No definitive timetable has been set for the evacuation, and the final decision will be made by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. According to the plan, evacuated army bases situated outside West Bank cities will be put at the disposal of the IDF troops that will withdraw from the city centers.

The plan further stipulates that all West Bank military courts will be centered in Qalqilyah. The Ramallah District brigade command will be moved to the Psagot settlement; both training base No. 4 and the 'Etzyon boot camp will be moved. Since the Hebron District is considered the most problematic and complicated, its brigade command will not be relocated from the city center to Qiryat Arba' before the last phase of the plan.

The IDF plan also includes the evacuation of several small settlements that are hard to defend because of their problematic location. Settlement evacuation will be carried out during the last stage of the plan, but it has been learned that the first settlements up for evacuation are Ganim and Qadim.

A senior military element confirmed yesterday that these are the main points of the plan, although he emphasized that no evacuation timetable has been set so far. He said the implementation of the plan depends on the political echelons and on the progress of the negotiations with the Palestinians.

The IDF spokesman responded last night: "No military base has been either evacuated or relocated in the Judaea and Samaria area."

## IDF Announces Capture of 'Terrorist' Squad

*TA2404183895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announces that the Shin Bet and the IDF recently uncovered a terrorist squad responsible for 10 attacks. It is also responsible for the death of police sapper Yosi Hayun. The IDF spokesman said the uncovering of the squad foiled its plan to blow up a car bomb between Hebron and Qiryat Arba'.

### Operations of Squad Detailed

*TA2504050695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces have uncovered a terrorist gang in the Hebron area which was planning a number of attacks, including blowing up a synagogue at Bet Hadassah in Hebron and setting off a car bomb against an Egged bus traveling in the area. The gang is believed to be responsible for 10 attacks in which an Israeli soldier was killed and three others wounded. Military sources say the gang was operated from Lebanon by Fatah members opposed to the Oslo agreement. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Ben-'Ami] So far, 14 members of the terrorist gang have been picked up, all of them residents of Hebron and the surrounding area. According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman, the people arrested in a joint operation by the army and the Shin Bet were originally recruited to Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization in 1989, but broke away from Fatah some time ago to set up their own terrorist group with links to Muslim extremists. The leader of the gang, whose name has not been released, is said to have trained extensively in the preparation of both home-manufactured bombs and sophisticated remote-controlled explosive devices.

Members of the gang are believed to be responsible for planting at least 10 explosive charges over the past two years or so, one of which took the life of police sapper Yosi Hayun in June 1993 as he tried to dismantle a bomb which had been placed beside Moshav Sheqef, south of Bet Guvrin and Qiryat Gat. The gang planted another bomb there four months later, but that injured no one. Further explosive charges were left by gang members at various locations in and around Hebron, including close by the Cave of the Patriarchs. The gang planted bombs and explosive charges every two or three months, some of them failing to go off; others exploding or being detonated from a distance as Israeli civilians or soldiers passed near by. most caused no injuries, but three soldiers were lightly hurt when one charge went off in the center of Hebron in December 1993.

The gang is also believed responsible for murdering a local Palestinian whom they accused of cooperating with the security authorities, and possibly also being behind an attack on tourists in al-'Ayzariyah beside Jerusalem in October last year. In that incident, two tourists were lightly injured when an explosive charge was thrown toward them.

The gang's full range of activities is still being investigated, but security officials say that already they have learned of a number of future operations which the terrorists were planning to carry out, including plans to blow up a synagogue at Bet Hadassah in Hebron, to detonate a car bomb on one the road used by an Egged bus traveling between Hebron and the Jewish settlement at Qiryat Arba', and to place an explosive charge in the local market in Holon and beside a football stadium.

More details of the gang's activities are expected to be made public in the coming days.

### Hamas Detainee Dies Following Interrogation

*TA2504054295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Hebron resident, believed to be one of the leaders of the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], died this morning at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. 'Abd- al-Samit Kharizat was arrested by the security forces on Saturday and interrogated at Hebron prison. He was taken ill during the interrogation and transferred to the hospital in Jerusalem.

A senior security source told our correspondent that the Department of Investigation of Police Officers at the State Attorney's Office was notified immediately after Kharizat fell ill. The security forces believe that Kharizat operated a terrorist gang in the Hebron area which remains on the lam.

### Press Reports Details on Ofeq-3 Satellite

*95AA0145A Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 95 p 2*

[FBIS Media Note] According to the Israeli press, the Ofeq-3 reconnaissance satellite, launched on 5 April, will increase Israel's ability to monitor developments in the military infrastructure and nuclear programs of neighboring countries and help fill some of the "intelligence gaps" that came to light during the Gulf War. However, it will not provide "real-time" imagery of missile launches, owing to the "non-fixed" nature of its orbit.

Specifications Alex Doron and 'Ami Ettinger, in MA'ARIV of 6 April, report that "Elisra," a subsidiary of Tadiran, which is known as the "house of electronic warfare," is one of the companies that supplied satellite equipment. The satellite includes El-Op systems such as a very light weight camera, designated "Research-1," that was officially said to be used for "researching ground resources from space." The ground station, continue Doron and Ettinger, can direct the satellite systems and cameras in any direction required, though the angle of orbital inclination cannot be changed. According to the correspondents, the engines in the first two stages were built by Israel Military Industries and that in the third stage by REFA'EL [Armaments Development Authority]. The third stage engine weighs almost two tons and is enclosed in a titanium casing. The rocket engines are powered with solid fuel, write the correspondents. The total length is reportedly almost 18 meters, although the figure is unofficial.

Flight Path Arye Egozi writes in YEDI'OT AHARONOT of 7 April that the east-west flight path of Ofeq-3 is at 37 degrees latitude, passing very close to Damascus, which is located at 36 degrees latitude. It moves 150 kilometers north to Tehran and almost 400 kilometers north to Baghdad, adds Egozi. According to foreign reports cited by Egozi, Ofeq-3 orbits the earth every 1.5 hours. Thus, because it not geosynchronous, the satellite will not be able to reliably detect missile launches in Iran or Iraq.

Intelligence Gaps Ron Ben-Yishay, in YEDI'OT AHARONOT of 7 April, says the Gulf War exposed gaps in the defensive capability of Israel toward the long-range missile threat. The Americans, writes Ben-Yishay, refused to fill the gap by providing Israel with high-quality, up-to-date photographs of Iraq for fear the Israeli Defense Force would deal with the problem themselves. The memory of this blindness, concludes Ben-Yishay, and the recognition that the threat of long-range surface-to-surface missiles and non-conventional weapons would only increase in the future led then Defense Minister Moshe Arens to say: "It should come as no surprise if, in the future, it becomes clear that we have a photo reconnaissance satellite with intelligence capability."

Other Versions of Rocket Alex Fishman, writes in MA'ARIV of 6 April that Israel launches its missiles westward, unlike most countries, and this requires not only a high level of technology, but also a strong rocket. Fishman indicates that a rocket carrying a relatively heavy satellite into space can also "appear in other versions" and a potential enemy should understand the significance of this when weighing the balance of power.

Paris Air Show According to MA'ARIV of 7 April, organizers of this year's Paris International Air Show hope Israeli will display a significant portion of its space systems and allow the purchase of missiles manufactured by Israel Military Industries and REFA'EL, including air-to-air, sea-to-air, and sea-to-sea missiles. Last year, sales were permitted in order to improve the situation of Israel Military Industries.

## Joint Jewish-Arab Leftist Front May Run for Knesset

*TA2304102695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Apr 95 p 4*

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[FBIS Translated Text] HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] has decided to set up a joint Jewish-Arab leftist front to run in the coming Knesset elections.

HADASH said that an Arab-Jewish front that falls in between Labor and the right-wing parties should be set up in order to strengthen and promote the negotiations with the Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon, and the other Arab states. "Such a bloc would strengthen the Labor government and bolster peace in the region," Muhammad Barqa, HADASH's national secretary, said.

The Arab Democratic Party [ADP] yesterday renewed its call to HADASH and the Islamic Movement on that issue. ADP Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said that all the Israeli Arabs should be united in a single party in the coming elections, which would raise the percentage of Israeli Arab voters and increase their Knesset representation.

Darawshah did not rule out other political organizations and movements joining the new bloc, but stressed that there are currently three main political movements operating in the Arab sector—HADASH, the ADP, and the Islamic Movement—which would constitute the central axis of the new party, while the other Arab parties and movements would unite around it.

The committee initiating the establishment of a joint grouping of the Progressive List for Peace and the Independents' Movement—which is a breakaway of HADASH's Knesset faction—convened in Nazareth yesterday. The new body's national forum will convene next week in order to approve its political platform and the organizational plan for its institutions.

DAVAR's correspondent reports that the Islamic Movement (as not made a final decision about whether it will compete in the coming Knesset elections under its own name, within the framework of a joint Arab list, or maintain the situation existing in previous elections when it permitted a free vote for the various parties. According to an internal Islamic Movement referendum, it appears that some 95 percent of its members and activists believe it should participate in the Knesset elections and over 65 percent said that they should compete as part of a large Arab list.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi also recently increased his activity for the establishment of a list to compete in the elections. Al-Tibi said that the movement he is about to set up includes heads of local councils, academics, women, public figures, and members of the free professions, as well as farmers who are influential in their areas.

## MA'ARIV Publisher Arrested in Wire-Tapping Case

*TA2304110695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Apr 95 p 1*

[Report by Raine Marcus]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Private investigator Ya'aqov Tzur, awaiting trial on 39 charges of tapping phones, cellular phones, and faxes in the media wiretapping case, has turned state's witness against MA'ARIV publisher and editor 'Ofer Nimrodi, who was arrested yesterday.

Acting on Tzur's new evidence, police also arrested the security officer of Hakhsharat Hayishuv and MA'ARIV, former GSS [General Security Services] agent David Ronen, lawyer Moti Katz, and private investigators Mikha Rotem and Eli Gershoni.

Less than a handful of senior police officers were made privy to Tzur's information, in order to prevent the disruption of the 12-month-long investigation into the bugging of media personnel, politicians, and businessmen.

New evidence provided by Tzur, 46—added to that gathered over the past few months which indicated that Nimrodi commissioned wide-scale wiretapping services from Tzur and his partner, Rafi Friedan—led to Nimrodi's arrest yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport just before he was about to board a plane to Zurich. Nimrodi owns the Hakhsharat Hayishuv insurance company, as well as the MA'ARIV daily.

Senior police officers said they had planned to arrest Nimrodi some three weeks from now, but a tipoff that he was on his way to Zurich and fears he would disrupt the investigation forced them to arrest him yesterday. A senior officer said the police did not know how long Nimrodi intended to remain abroad. [passage omitted]

## Court Remands Publisher for 7 Days

*TA2404112595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 95 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Raine Marcus and Rachel Neiman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] 'Ofer Nimrodi, publisher and editor of MA'ARIV and owner of Hakhsharat Hayishuv, suspected of commissioning wide-scale wiretapping, was remanded for seven days by the Petah Tiqva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Lawyer Moti Katz, suspected of suborning witnesses and obstructing justice by paying accused wiretappers Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tzur to keep quiet about their connection to Nimrodi, was also remanded for seven days.

Friedan was also arrested yesterday, after new evidence implicating Nimrodi in commissioning wiretapping and obstructing justice was discovered, police sources said last night. Friedan has already been indicted on 39 counts of wiretapping.

Nimrodi was arrested Saturday morning at Ben-Gurion Airport, as he was about to leave for Switzerland. Police suspect that he ordered wiretaps from Tzur and Friedan, at first by himself, then via his security officer David Ronen. [passage omitted]

Shares in Hakhsharat Hayishuv plunged 10 percent on the stock exchange yesterday, following Nimrodi's arrest.

## YEDI'OT AHARONOT Editor Detained

*TA2504103095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 95 p A1*

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] YEDI'OT AHARONOT editor Moshe Vardi was detained close to midnight last night, following an interrogation at the National Serious Crimes Squad's Petah Tiqva headquarters on suspicion of involvement in the illegal wiretapping of former editor Dov Yudkovsky's telephone. YEDI'OT AHARONOT news editor Rut Ben-Ari was released after an interrogation that lasted until late last night. The police will decide today whether to request Vardi's remand in custody. [passage omitted]

The police investigation was conducted on two levels yesterday: On one hand, the investigators continued gathering evidence and depositions regarding the suspected commissioning of illegal wiretapping and witness subornation by senior MA'ARIV figures, including editor in chief 'Ofer Nimrodi. At the same time, suspicions against Moshe Vardi and Rut Ben-Ari were investigated. During the day, the police seized documents in Vardi's and Ben-Ari's homes and offices. YEDI'OT AHARONOT editor in chief Arnon Moses was also interrogated and released. [passage omitted]

## Israel's Peres Attends Symposium, Meets Officials

### Views Peace Process With Crown Prince

*JN2404145795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues related to the peace process, as well as the seminar currently being held in Amman on promoting the Jordan Valley.

### Confers With King Husayn

*JN2404193295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is visiting Jordan to attend a symposium on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Jordan, the United States, and Israel are due to take part in the development program.

His majesty was briefed by Peres on some ideas and proposals presented to the symposium on ways to develop the Jordan Rift Valley in the interest of the peoples of this region. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the Israeli ambassador in Amman.

### Views Development of Rift Valley

*JN2404182895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said: There is no alternative to peace in the region because the alternative means war, hatred, and a continued arms race. He pointed out that as part of this peace, Israel has returned to Jordan every inch of territory. This also applies to water and economic cooperation.

At a news conference he gave at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel this morning, he added that the best alternative for all countries is to adopt a free market economy.

Asked about the end of conventional wars and whether other kinds of war are expected, he said: There is the war of violence and terrorism and we need international efforts to fight this. The second kind is nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare, which is dangerous both inside and outside the region because it is not affected by certain sides and trends. They may become a tool in the hands of irresponsible leaders. These kinds of warfare can be dealt with by improving the economy and the standard of living and by understanding the sensitivities of the peoples living here.

Asked about the refusal [of Israel] to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, he said: The situation of Israel is different. We have peace and we have no concerns regarding our relations. We are satisfied with our relations with Jordan, Egypt, and even the Palestinians.

Replying to another question on the overall cost of the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and the source of its financing, he said: It will cost $25 billion, including the canal between the two seas. We feel that banks and institutions will form groups to invest in the region and will differentiate between large and small projects.

He clarified that the U.S. Administration and U.S. and European private companies will launch a special investment program with a guarantee from their governments.

Asked about plans to establish a bank for development in the Middle East, he said: The various countries are interested in establishing such a bank and discussions in this regard are going on because such a bank will encourage investment in the region.

Responding to a question on the concentration of development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley, he said: This is part of a larger program. There are other projects such as building industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and establishing high schools in the technological area. We are currently holding discussions with Jordan on the founding of a joint development research council in which the United States will take part. We are also thinking of building a center for special research, particularly the development of gene research. This center will include the best scientists.

Asked about the situation of the refugees who are awaiting their return, Peres said there is hope for moving them from one place to another in order to improve their working and living conditions.

### Holds News Conference

*JN2504105995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 30*

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has welcomed His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's proposal to set up a Jordanian-Israeli authority to discuss the mechanism for developing the Jordan Rift Valley. He said that Israel is prepared to take such a step. He added that the aim of the two [Jordanian and Israeli] sides is to work together, noting that the structure of the proposed authority is already available. He expressed his satisfaction with the Jordanian-American-Israeli cooperation.

Addressing a news conference held at the Intercontinental Hotel on the sidelines of a symposium on the

Jordan Rift Valley development, Peres said he regrets the Jordanian professional unions' decision to boycott the Israeli side. He said that the only alternative to peace is war, squandering of funds, and continuation of hatred and the arms race. [passage omitted]

He called for destroying nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that spread anxiety among the peoples of the Middle East and elsewhere. He said that people no longer welcome wars and confrontation. He noted that rulers are also worried about these two facts.

He renewed Israel's rejection to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, saying that Israel has special and extraordinary conditions. He said some countries, like Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians, have signed peace agreements with Israel and established comfortable relations with it. He noted that on the other hand there is Iran, which seeks to upgrade its nuclear capabilities in addition to Iraq. But, he said that he has nothing against the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

### Reiterates 'No Conditions' for Peace

*TA2404161995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held extended meetings with King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan in Amman today. The foreign minister was in Amman within the framework of the Jordan Rift Valley conference. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz interviewed Mr. Peres:

[Begin recording] [Peres] First of all, the king expressed great satisfaction with the way relations between us and Jordan are developing. He is unimpressed with those who spread skepticism, those who express doubts, and those who want to pull back. He thinks that the relations between us could be exemplary and that the more we fill them up with contents, the more they will serve as a precedent for the continuation of the peace process. He does not condition peace on other things, although, of course, he would like to see a comprehensive peace.

[Raz] But only yesterday, Jordan's dentists' unions announced its opposition to the treatment of Israelis.

[Peres] That does not mean there are no skeptics among intellectuals, but we should not get overexcited. He is sure that the Jordanian parliament will ratify the revocation of the economic boycott. We discussed joint plans. They are also very pleased with the way the conference was opened this morning and was conducted with massive U.S. participation. I told him that one of the things that we must do is recruit private capital because governments have limited funds since most of the capital has shifted from governments to private companies.

[Raz] There is no link between progress in Israel-Jordanian peace and the continuation of the negotiations with the Palestinians?

[Peres] There are no conditions. Of course, he said, the more progress is made with the Palestinians the easier it will be on all sides, but there is no linkage.

[Raz] What about Syria? Were negotiations with it raised in any context?

[Peres] They, like us, wonder what is holding things up. They expressed a desire for progress in the negotiations, but they do not have specific proposals about what should be done.

[Raz] In other words, they are also doubtful?

[Peres] Not that they are doubtful, but they, like us, do not understand the Syrian reasoning. [end recording]

The Jordanians expressed their desire to conclude the negotiations on the establishment of a joint airport at al-'Aqabah, a trade accord, security arrangements, and the establishment of a scientific, medical, and agricultural research and development center in the 'Arava.

### Chats With Citizens

*JN2504104595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Many passersby and shopowners in one of Amman's streets have found themselves face to face with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who was strolling down one of Amman's main streets. Peres arrived in Amman to participate in a symposium on the development of the Jordan Valley.

The people on the street showed mixed feelings of welcome and astonishment. Peres drank an orange drink offered him by the owner of a popular refreshment kiosk and accepted worry beads from a Jordanian citizen as a gift.

Peres spoke with shopowners and passersby on a variety of issues. Astonishment could be seen on the faces of drivers as their cars passed by him.

[Begin recording] [Israeli Envoy Shim'on Shamir] We hope the situation is improving.

[Unidentified citizen] We hope it will improve.

[Shamir] As a result of peace?

[Citizen] We are optimistic. We all are optimistic that the situation will improve. [end recording]

## Buwayz on Peace Process, NPT, Domestic Scene

*MM2104154295 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 3-9 Apr 95 pp 18, 19*

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Jihan Faruq al-Husayni in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Husayni] Did you feel aggrieved because Christopher did not stop in Lebanon during his recent tour of the Middle East? Does this imply in your opinion that the Lebanese peace process is not among the U.S. Administration's priorities?

[Buwayz] I do not think that we can talk about being aggrieved. We are aware that the United States has its priorities, that it has its own order in dealing with various issues. This order has nothing to do with the importance or lack of importance of issues inasmuch as it is connected with a particular methodology which makes the solution of one issue before the next conducive to giving a push forward to the peace process as a whole.

We believe that for numerous geographic, economic, and security reasons there can be no comprehensive solution as long as Lebanon remains outside such a solution. The accomplishment of a comprehensive solution assumes the participation of all sides in it and so for one side to remain outside, particularly if it is a basic side such as Lebanon, will totally or partially impede the peace process.

From here we can fully realize that the time will come when the Lebanese issue will be addressed once the peace process develops. But should this operation fail to develop in a positive manner, there is no need for us to waste time and enter into futile negotiations.

In view of this, the negotiations that are taking place and those that will take place in respect of the Syrian peace process constitute a test of the Israeli negotiators and Israeli intentions in general. If these intentions are directed toward peace, then they will be reflected in the Syrian process, and this in turn will encourage the tackling of the Lebanese process. But if these intentions are not positive, then they would save us and others from getting embroiled in negotiations that are only a mere formality.

[Al-Husayni] You always affirm your agreement to linking the Lebanese negotiation process to the Syrian peace process. What would happen if Israel were to put to you a proposal for negotiation that is worth discussing. Would Lebanon change its position regarding this linkage to the Syrian process?

[Buwayz] We in fact participated in the Madrid peace process from two angles: The first angle pertains to Lebanon and is based on the principle of the liberation of Lebanese territory through the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which does not talk about peace but about unconditional Israeli withdrawal. As far as we are concerned, that resolution provides a suitable mechanism for resolving the question of the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory. But we do not assume that this resolution would constitute also a suitable mechanism that would lead us to peace with Israel. The second angle pertains to UN resolution 242 which talks of a comprehensive peace and Arab-Israeli negotiations. Being part of this Arab world, we entered these negotiations. On this basis, these negotiations are concerned with the creation and the laying down of the basis for a state of peace. The implementation of UN Resolution 242 will mean the realization of a comprehensive peace and the return of the Arab rights, and not only Lebanese rights, to their owners.

With regard to Resolution 425, if Israel is ready to implement and enforce it, then we too are ready. This resolution provides for Israel's departure from Lebanon and the creation of a state of security and stability only. It does not provide for the conclusion of a peace agreement.

As regards Resolution 242, it is only natural for our attitude toward it to be in solidarity with all the Arab sides concerned, particularly Syria. Thus if Israel offered to leave southern Lebanon, we naturally would not say no. But we will not sign a peace agreement with it except in conjunction with Syria. Syria, too, will not sign a peace agreement with Israel until southern Lebanon returns to Lebanon, even if the Syrian Golan was returned to Syria.

[Al-Husayni] American Vice President Al Gore has stated recently that Lebanon must return to what it was before the war and without interference from any side or power. What comment do you have about this statement?

[Buwayz] All of us in Lebanon are working for the restoration of our complete sovereignty over our territories through our own channels and through the independence we aspire to. I believe that what Lebanon has endured and the impact the regional crises that took place during the Lebanese war has left on Lebanon itself are bound to dissipate gradually now that stability and security have returned, the militias have been disbanded and disarmed, all barriers have been brought down, and the state's security and administrative machine have been restored. It is only natural for us to proceed along this course and it is only natural that the liberation of southern Lebanon will be the basic and final watershed, perhaps, for Lebanon's problems.

[Al-Husayni] What do you expect the results of the forthcoming presidential elections will be?

[Buwayz] I believe that, unfortunately, the question of elections was raised prematurely. I believe also that it is open to all probabilities, including that of the possible extension of the term of President Ilyas al-Harawi and that of the election of a new president. As yet I do not envisage any clear picture of what might happen that would enable me to make a precise and serious prediction of what the results will be.

[Al-Husayni] What lies behind the resumption of the Syrian- Israeli negotiations anew, or rather the actual activation of the Syrian peace process?

[Buwayz] It is evident that the proposals which Secretary of State Christopher brought with him to Syria were the reason for the reactivation of these negotiations that had been put on ice at a certain stage. Naturally, I do not want to delve into this matter more than I need to. I also do not want to express similar optimism to what we expressed during the first stage. But I must say that the mere resumption of the talks constitutes ipso facto an important step, though not sufficient to affirm that these talks will inevitably lead to the restoration of Syrian rights. Thus as far as the mechanism is concerned, we must admit that the resumption of negotiations was important, but as far as the content and the outcome of the negotiations are concerned, I believe that it is still too early to predict what they will be.

[Al-Husayni] What is your position on the draft treaty for turning the Middle East region into a zone free of all total-destruction weapons, which was raised during the recent meetings of the Arab League?

[Buwayz] I have expressed our clear position on this matter: We are facing a defective situation at present, not only in international attitudes but also in international logic. Logic is being manipulated now to serve private interests. Put simply, it is illogical to ask the Arab countries to join and sign the agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, when they possess no such weapons, at the time when Israel, which possesses such weapons and which poses the main threat in the Middle East region, is not being asked sufficiently to join this treaty. Thus this treaty is being put forward under different criteria, as though some countries in this world are governed by one set of laws while other countries are exempt from these laws, as though it has been decided in advance that there is a club for the ruling powers who are above the law and beyond suspicion and there is a club of countries who are always under suspicion and should be subjected to certain restrictions.

Most simply, I believe that the importance of the extension of this treaty lies in its being universal and linked to its ability to insure that countries accede to it and that Israel's obstinate determination to remain outside the framework of this treaty blows up the entire treaty and consequently there is no need to join it.

[Al-Husayni] What does the term the Middle East region, which is contained in the draft treaty, mean to you?

[Buwayz] We support the principle of the treaty, provided that it is joined by Israel. But we will not consider the treaty to be serious as long as Israel remains outside it and continues to constitute the main threat. The renewing of this treaty by a large number of the Arab countries cannot be guaranteed as long as Israel refrains from joining. I believe that the statement issued by the final session of the Arab League meeting was clear and it ties the Arab states' joining the treaty to Israel's joining.

[Al-Husayni] What are you doing to follow up the implementation of the mechanism of the proposed treaty: i.e. the establishment of a regional center or regional organization?

[Buwayz] We prefer to leave this matter for the UN Security Council, which remains the principal body responsible for world peace. It must adopt the necessary measures to ensure all countries of the region join the treaty, thus preventing all threats to peace. I believe that there is a paragraph in the Arab League resolution which asks the UN Security Council to implement the proposed treaty and ensure its application by all the parties concerned.

[Al-Husayni] Some have proposed giving Israel a three-year period of grace as a maximum to join the international agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. What do you say to that?

[Buwayz] We will not sign. There is a very clear paragraph in the final statement of the Arab League Council which links our signing as Arabs to Israel's accession to the treaty.

[Al-Husayni] Let us return once more to the conditions in Lebanon. What is the main concern in the Lebanese arena; I mean what is the concern of the ordinary Lebanese citizen at present?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese man in the street feels that he has paid a high price for the Arab-Israeli conflict. After 20 years of war, the Lebanese citizen dreams of a free, liberated, sovereign, and independent Lebanon as well as the return of Lebanon to its old role in the economic, political, cultural, scientific, social, and other fields.

[Al-Husayni] How far has been achieved with regard to the reconstruction of Lebanon?

[Buwayz] I believe at no time was the problem of Lebanon an economic one as much as one always due to regional and international problems which left their mark on it. Lebanese citizens have a great capacity for resisting economic challenges once a favorable political climates exist. Hence the return of economic activity to Beirut despite its present condition provides categorical proof of the Lebanese capacity to overcome crises.

[Al-Husayni] How do you evaluate the Lebanese fear of the old internal conflicts coming to the surface, again threatening Lebanon's stability?

[Buwayz] The difference between Lebanon and other countries of the region is that it is democratic and transparent. For this reason, its conflicts tend to manifest themselves more clearly to the world. But I believe that the conflicts in the Lebanese arena exist in other countries and not in Lebanon alone.

## Minister Criticizes U.S., Israeli Pressure

*NC2404090395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that U.S. and Israeli pressure on Lebanon go hand in hand with efforts to halt the resistance, hinder the construction process, and disengage the Lebanese and Syrian tracks to force Lebanon to capitulate to Israel as has happened on the other Arab tracks. He noted that this pressure began with halting efforts to establish an Arab and international fund to help Lebanon and continued with the ban on travel by U.S. nationals to Lebanon, Israel's daily aggressive acts against the south, and the blockade of the Lebanese coast from al-Naqurah to Sidon.

## Further Reportage on Oklahoma City Bombing

### U.S. Attitudes Toward Arabs Assailed

*MM2404141395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 17*

[Article by Mahir 'Uthman: "America's Terrorist Militias"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Americans are in shock, having discovered the awful truth that the worst terrorist explosion in their history, the explosion which occurred in the heart of Oklahoma City, was an internal terrorist act committed by white right-wing extremists.

At first the accusing fingers were pointed at Arabs, "Islamic fundamentalists," and people with Middle Eastern features, as if such people had a monopoly on terrorism. The investigators initially assumed that the culprits were Arabs, and the Israelis fed their suspicions with an offer of help in the investigation and with the assertion that they had warned the United States of an imminent attack by "Islamic Fundamentalists."

President Bill Clinton assumed that the ugly act was planned and carried out by foreign parties, probably Middle Eastern. It has been said that last Wednesday he ordered the Pentagon to identify targets in Iran and Sudan to be attacked when the situation becomes clear and the charges against them stuck. His mind was aiming abroad when he addressed the American people, saying: "There is no place for anyone in this country or anywhere else in the world to hide from the consequences of this horrible act." He reaffirmed his belief that the crime was an exported terrorist act, adding: "Make no mistake, this is an attack on the United States... on our way of life and everything we believe in."

The United States has, for decades and as part of its ideological fabric enhanced by the pro-Israel lobby, been mobilized and indoctrinated to accuse the Arabs and Muslims as cruel extremist who do not hesitate to commit acts of terrorism.

The U.S. State Department still sees itself as inspector of human rights in the states of the world and issues lists of countries it says sponsor terrorism, crossing them off the list or putting them back on the list whenever it wishes.

Had the license number of the van which carried the explosives to the heart of Oklahoma not been discovered and had Timothy McVeigh not been arrested by chance for speeding in the town of Perry, the charges would perhaps have continued against the "fundamentalists" and/or Arabs, Iranians, and others. The discovery that McVeigh had hired the vehicle which carried the explosives and that he belonged to the extremist "Michigan Militia" forced FBI Director Louis Freeh to advise Clinton and his attorney general to stop accusing foreign parties.

Suddenly, from that horrible truth which shocked the American people other horrible truths are emerging. The "Michigan Militia" is but one of dozens of similar extremist organizations in the central, southern, and western parts of the United States, with tens of thousands of members with strange ideologies of hatred for the federal government and an obsession with arms, and the belief that the federal government and the United Nations are conspiring to disarm white people and recruit tens of thousands of Chinese people and others to achieve that.

It has also transpired that there is a scandalous internal information vacuum which must be filled before the danger of these "pure" American-born-and-bred militias intensifies.

### Islamic Deputy Comments

*NC2404172695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1534 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Fathi Yakan, head of the Islamic Group deputies bloc, has said that the United States is living on top of a huge fiery volcano caused by a psychological, moral, racist, and ethnic breakdown and a long history of injustice and the hegemony of the U.S. Administration. All these things, he added, constitute the beginning of the end of the iniquitous new world order.

Deputy Yakan today was commenting on the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma.

### Hizballah: Lebanon Safer Than U.S.

*NC2404195195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah's deputy secretary general, has said that the Oklahoma explosion shamed the U.S. Administration following the accusation it tried to pin on the Islamists and

Middle Easterners. He added that it has become clear that Lebanon is much safer than the United States.

### Hizballah Denies Mughniyah on Board Plane

*MM2504093795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Denies Mughniyah Was Aboard Plane From Khartoum 7 April"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah leadership sources have denied a WASHINGTON POST report that 'Imad Mughniyah, a member of the party, was among the Middle East Airlines passengers on its flight from Khartoum to Beirut via Jeddah on 7 April. The Saudi authorities asked the plane to turn back to Khartoum without landing in Jeddah.

Commenting on THE WASHINGTON POST's claim that U.S. authorities asked Saudi authorities to detain the plane in Jeddah to make it possible to arrest Mughniyah, thinking that he was aboard the plane, the same sources said: "This is a joke. Hajj Mughniyah was not on the plane. He actually did not attend the Arab and Islamic People's Conference in Khartoum, which was public and which was attended by journalists from many Arab countries, including Lebanon. They would have easily identified him if he was there."

They added that "Hizballah was represented at the conference by Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim, who returned to Beirut via Jeddah before the Middle East Airlines plane was turned back to Khartoum from Jeddah airport."

They continued: "When the plane was turned back, those in charge and the passengers did not know the reason. The justification given was that Jeddah airport was not notified in advance of its arrival. Our information is that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, amir of the Islamic Unification Movement, was aboard the plane. When the passengers were sent back to Beirut from Khartoum the following day Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban was seen by everyone as he disembarked from the plane."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters in Washington the day before yesterday that his country expressed concern because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not provide the cooperation the United States had hoped for. He declined to explain further.

## Afghanistan

### Government Troops Reportedly Captured by Taleban

*LD2404174195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban has captured Isma'il Khan's 1,000 men and have detained them in a camp in Qandahar. Ahmad Rashed, an independent reporter, gives an account of his visit to Qandahar.

According to accounts from Taleban wounded, who have been brought to Qandahar for treatment, Isma'il Khan's warplanes make 50 sorties against the positions of the Taleban every day. The report says that the Taleban's casualties in recent fighting have been more than that of Isma'il Khan's forces, and the Taleban are now fighting only a few kilometers away from Herat airport. However, due to minefields, they cannot storm the airport. Remarks by the Taleban to the reporter indicate that they are suffering from shortages of heavy weapons and ammunition.

A number of Isma'il Khan's commanders surrendered to the Taleban after the fall of Farah province, and about 1,000 of his men have been taken prisoner. They are detained in a camp in Qandahar. The report adds that 300 members of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] are also being detained in this camp.

### Roads Into Kabul Blocked by Taleban

*LD2404093595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Available reports from Afghanistan say that the Taleban group has blocked roads leading to Kabul from the southern and western regions, and is prevening vehicles carrying fuel and essential commodities from entering the city.

Quoting informed sources in Afghanistan, an IRNA report indicates that routes linking Herat, Qandahar and Qazni to Kabul are under the control of the Taleban forces. This is creating difficulties in providing fuel and essential commodities for the people of Kabul city.

The Taleban group has controlled the provinces of Lowgar and Vardak in the southern and western parts of Kabul for the past three months.

### Taleban Reportedly Ready To Establish Government

*LD2304174495 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mulla Mohammad Abbas, mayor of Qandahar and a member of the Taleban leadership, in a BBC interview said: We are ready to join anyone whose goal is the establishment of an Islamic government. He added: It was wrong to say that we failed to capture Kabul. In fact it was our military strategy. We have defeated Mas'ud's group many times and right now thousands of his group's men are prisoners with us, and we are ready to show them to the journalists. Mulla Mohammad Abbas said: We are resisting the Isma'il Khan forces about 25 km from Shindand Airport and have inflicted heavy losses on them. We support anyone who fights to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan and we are ready to join them.

### Parties Propose Anti-Rabbani Alliance

*LD2304094695 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, April 23, IRNA—Efforts are on for forging a grand alliance against Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani who refused to quit power on the expiry of his extended mandate.

Informed Afghan sources told IRNA that leaders of various religious parties have started efforts and held talks with leaders of Afghan Islamic student militia, known as Taleban and those of anti-Rabbani alliance.

The proposed grand alliance depends upon the participation of the main opposition party Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] led by Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The anti-Rabbani alliance leader and former President Sebghatollah Mojadeddi is sad to be inclined to this alliance but has put some conditions including arrest of those Taleban who killed 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party].

Qotbuddin Helal, political advisor of Hekmatyar has said that talks have been held between Hezb-e [Eslami] and Taleban but have made no considerable progress.

A Hezb-e Wahdat spokesman supported the proposal but asked for the punishment of those Taleban who killed their leader.

## India

### Editorials View U.S. Secretary Rubin's Visit

#### 'Quantum Jump' in Ties Predicted

*BK2504074795 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 95 p 11*

[Editorial: "A welcome treaty"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States' willingness to sign a bilateral investment protection treaty with India augurs well for boosting direct foreign investment in the country. Direct foreign investment from the US which had gone up phenomenally from a mere $62 million in 1991 to $1,117 million in 1993 appeared to hit a plateau in 1994 with approvals totalling $1,125 million. Cautious and conservative investors in the US, it is reckoned, have been wary of making large-scale investments in a country which did not have an investment protection pact with their country. The proposed investment protection treaty can, therefore, be expected to result in a high volume of direct investment from the US in the coming days. Equally welcome is the assurance of the visiting US Treasury Secretary, Mr Robert E. Rubin, that his government would not make the opening of the insurance sector a pre-condition for the flow of investment from the US into the infrastructure sector. The US has been eyeing the insurance sector in India for quite some time now and urging New Delhi to open it for foreign investors. Mr Rubin's assurance should not, however, be taken to mean that the US government has lost interest in the issue. Mr Rubin has been quick to reiterate his government's stand that "the opening of insurance industry will help companies in mobilising savings of the people for investing in the long-term projects". He should be realistic enough to accept that it is for India as a sovereign nation to decide which sectors it would like to open up for foreign investment and participation.

India, on its part, has done well to demand a strong and workable international institutional mechanism to protect developing countries from currency and interest rate fluctuations. The demand voiced by the Union Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, at the joint Press conference elicited the welcome response from Mr Rubin that the US wanted India to be a part of the dialogue to build an international institutional mechanism. However, his reluctance to endorse India's membership to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) after the expiry of the three-year moratorium on membership in 1996 did not appear quite in tune with his earlier statement. Notwithstanding this, Indo-US economic cooperation appear poised for a quantum jump in the coming months, given the large measure of understanding arrived at on crucial bilateral issues.

### Need 'To Stop Squabbling' Supported

*BK2504020595 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 20 Apr 95 p 8*

[Editorial: "Of the people, by trade"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The most newsworthy part of US treasury secretary Robert Rubin's trip was his embarrassment at finding himself in the country at the same time as Iranian President Rafsanjani. This is testimony to the declining role of the two governments in Indo-US relations as private trade and investment flows take over from aid. India is off the bad-boy Super 301 list. The recent agreement on trade in textiles has, in particular, been welcomed by the US side, as has the further reduction in tariffs in the latest budget. The US would probably like to see faster movement particularly on product patents in pharmaceuticals and agro-chemicals, but secretary Rubin was content merely to emphasise the importance of a strong intellectual property protection regime in attracting foreign investment and technology. Even on the questions of progress in opening the insurance industry to foreign participation he made understanding noises, and denied any intention to link it with the flow of capital for infrastructure projects. He reiterated the Clinton administration's support for the next replenishment of IDA [international development aid], but viewed India's continued access to IDA funds as something for the World Bank to decide. The US has said it would like to see China become ineligible for IDA, since China can access international capital markets. This would make more funds available for India. The issues that India pressed more strongly were the movement of our professionals to the US to provide various skill-intensive services on a temporary basis, membership of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], and speeding up the disbursement of direct investment already approved.

India has been projected by a recent World Bank report to become the world's fourth largest economy in purchasing power parity terms by 2020, after the US, China and Japan. This makes India an interesting place for the US. Conversely, for India, the US is the largest export destination—we ran a trade surplus of $3 billion with the US in 1994—and the most important source of investment and technology. It is, therefore, not surprising that the two countries are beginning to see it in their interest to stop squabbling, never mind the occasional hiccup.

## Reportage, Commentary on Iranian Delegation Visit

### Velayati Comments on Ties

*LD2104123595 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 19, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told IRNA here today [21 April] that the visit to New Delhi by the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would be mutually beneficial to both nations.

He said current feasibility studies for transferring energy from Iran to India would be complete by the end of the year. He said the cost of those studies would be jointly shared by the two countries.

Talks have been held between the two countries on a pipeline through Pakistan for supplying India with natural gas from Iran.

Meanwhile, an informed source told IRNA Tuesday [18 April] that India was likely to play a share in a railway project in Iran that was to link the Iranian city of Bafq to holy Mashhad, the capital of Iran's northeastern province of Khorasan, the haven of Muslim pilgrims from Iran and the rest of the Muslim world for its holy shrine that is the tomb of Imam Reza (AS) [God's peace be upon him] the eighth infallible imam of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] household.

On March 17, the Bandar-e 'Abbas-Bafq railway project was inaugurated by the Iranian president. A project is underway to link Mashhad with the central Asian railway network through the city of Sarakhs which straddles the Iran-Turkmenistan border.

Earlier today [21 April], the foreign ministers of Iran, India and Turkmenistan held a trilateral meeting to study cooperation.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is visiting India at the head of a high ranking delegation.

### Minister Offers Help To Rebuild Mosque

*LD2104140195 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 21, IRNA—The deputy minister for foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi today 21 April] said his government would extend all help and cooperation to India in the reconstruction of the Babri masjid.

Borujerdi, who arrived in southern city of Hyderabad, capital of the Andhra Pradesh state, told reporters that the Babri masjid [mosque] issue was a problem to be solved by the people and the government of India.

Asked about the proposed gas pipeline project between Iran and India, Borujerdi said the feasibility report of the proposed project was awaited. He welcomed the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, N T Rama Rao to extend the pipeline to the state to help establish gas-based industries.

Borujerdi also informed reporters that he had invited Rama Rao to Iran.

### Economic Issues Seen as Key to Ties

*BK2004161395 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 20 Apr 95 p 8*

[Editorial: "Rafsanjani seeks ally in Delhi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is a pleasure to see India reasserting itself in international relations. For far too long, India has been viewed as an easily-bullied South Asian giant with a soft underbelly. At no time was this more evident than during the interregnum between the regimes of Rajiv Gandhi and Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. While the V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar governments had little time for foreign policy, and even less understanding of it, the leaders' diffidence in dealing with other countries stemmed from the poor state of the economy. The present Prime Minister was a perceptive foreign minister who demolished the iron web of ideology constricting India's responses. The manner in which South Block and the political leadership handled the visit of the Iranian President, Mr 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, deserves commendation. The visit of the Iranian President was a breakthrough of sorts for India. Pakistan, which had prevailed upon him in the past not to visit India, must have been livid at the bonhomie between the leaders of the two countries. Islamabad does not enjoy the best of relations with Tehran but that does not deter it from attempting to side with it against New Delhi. As a militant defender of Islamic causes the world over, Pakistan wanted Iran to put Kashmir on its agenda. But Tehran distrusts Pakistan: The ayatollahs see the Pakistani ruling elite as a surrogate of the American military-industrial complex. They supported the Shias in Karachi's sectarian clashes who they felt were victims of a grand Western conspiracy against the Islamic republic. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had his own secular compulsions for seeking friendship with India. Realising the danger of a renewed American offensive against his country with the weakening of Iraq, Iran undertook massive acquisition of arms. It began to view New Delhi as a potential ally which could be persuaded to support it in international fora against bullying by the West. India has a sturdy tradition of speaking its mind on awkward issues, and might show its gratitude for Iran's help during the Geneva human rights convention when it forced Pakistan to drop the resoslution against India.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani brought attractive trade proposals with him: pipelines could bring oil from Iranian oifields to India going through Pakistan, and the two countries could collaborate in exploring the Central Asian market. He repeated his proposals at the Lucknow reception, describing them as an expression of friendship among the three countries. New Delhi was wise not to fall in completely with the idea, sensibly suggesting that the line be laid on the seabed since the Pakistan corridor might not always remain open. However, the Indian and Iranian oil ministries agreed on a joint venture, which means they are reasonably confident of sorting out the possible contretemps. The tripartite agreement between India, Iran and Turkmenistan to ferry merchandise to the republics of the former Soviet Union could serve as a model for Third World cooperation if the bureaucracy of the two countries do not kill the idea with their lethargy. Iran and India constitute a powerful market together, one that Tehran would be eager to explore to break free of an undeclared Western blockade. New Delhi needs to be cautious that it is not used by Iran in its fight against the West. Economy and politics should be kept apart and the former needs to be treated with greater seriousness. Relations between the two countries offer many mutual advantages but in the end it is the economy that will fuel the locomotive of increased cooperation.

### Ties May Benefit U.S.

*BK2204132995 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Apr 95 p 12*

[Editorial: "Neighbour's Neighbour"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the Iranian President, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, has reaffirmed what Chanakya taught us a millennium ago about one's neighbour's neighbour being a friend worth cultivating. Apart from that, Iran-India interaction is not of recent vintage but has spanned centuries. The Indian policy towards Iran is in line with its foreign policy since independence of engagement with all nations, irrespective of their ideological leanings. The U.S. entered into the Iran-Contra deal during the Reagan period in violation of its laws. The U.S. is also reported to have acquiesced in the Iranian shipment of armaments to Bosnia. U.S. companies are doing hundreds of millions of dollars of business buying from and selling to Iran a whole range of products, India, therefore, need not be unduly sensitive to any U.S. criticism with regard to President Rafsanjani's visit coinciding with the tour of the U.S. treasury secretary, Mr Robert Rubin. Nor should it be apologetic about the high-profile welcome accorded to the Iranian head of state. Mr Henry Kissinger's secret visit to China in 1971 had the same strategic rationale as Indo-Iranian relations. Iran is India's natural route to central Asian republics and India has a high stake in the Iranian and central Asian oil and gas. In this age of geo-economics, it is in the fitness of things that all countries should attempt to maximise their trade and economic opportunities.

India happens to be the largest producer of consumer goods in close proximity to Iran and India's economic expansion needs more markets. The mutuality of commercial interests drawing India and Iran closer is becoming increasingly obvious. In this context, the Iran-India-Turkmenistan trilateral agreement on trade is a valuable contribution to Indo-central Asian relations. Though India is the second largest Islamic country in the world, it has been subject to hostile propaganda in the Organisation of Islamic Countries. It is therefore, necessary for India to cultivate leading Islamic countries and explain to them the realities of the situation in this region. A measure of India's success in this area is Mr Rafsanjani's endorsement of Indian secularism—though it is somewhat strange that the head of a theocratic state should do so—and his disapproval of attempts to sow religious and sectarian discord. Iran's condemnation of international terrorism also sounds hollow, considering that Mr Rafsanjani defended the fatwa against Salman Rushdie. The propaganda against Iran's nuclear ambitions is reminiscent of similar charges against North Korea by the U.S. and its subsequent agreement with that country which exempted its suspect sites from being inspected by the international atomic energy agency for a good five years. India should continue to strengthen its policy of constructive engagement with Iran. Some day the Americans may be grateful for it.

## Iran

### Anniversary of U.S. Tabas Operation Noted

#### Convoy Leaves for Tabas

*LD2404130895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of 5 Ordibehesht [corresponding to 25 April], the [15th] anniversary of the U.S. military attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Tabas desert, about 6,000 people from Yazd Province left for the Tabas desert today to demonstrate their hatred of the U.S. conspiracies against the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The people formed a large convoy named "Death to America".

Members of the convoy renewed their allegiance to the lofty aims of the late Imam [Khomeyni] and the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution. They also expressed support for the enlightening statement issued by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the U.S. conspiracies.

#### Majles Speaker Addresses Rally

*LD2504104995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the [15th] anniversary of the U.S. military attack on the Tabas desert and in order to demonstrate decisive support for the recent statement of the president [issued on 13 April], various people staged a rally outside the building of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, chanting slogans of "Death to America and Israel."

According to our correspondent's report, the demonstrators, who carried posters of Imam Khomeyni and the esteemed leader, walked along several streets before reaching the Islamic Majles. A line of motorcyclists with their headlights turned on rode ahead of the marchers. Outside the Majles a 12-point resolution of the marchers was read out. The resolution, while condemning the U.S. military attack on Tabas, denounced conspiracies of global arrogance and reiterated support for the esteemed leader.

Afterward, Mr. Hasan Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles, in a speech to the rally, praised the marchers for their presence outside the nation's house [Majles], and said: Your presence at every sensitive juncture to support the Islamic regime, the leadership of the revolution, and aspirations of the Imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, brings power and glory to the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Rowhani added: The U.S. anger and irrational decisions of the White House demonstrate the glory of the revolution and the victory of the Muslims' movement; they are a sign of U.S. failure. He stressed the need to continue the struggle until global arrogance, headed by the United States, is destroyed.

#### Commentary on 'Defeat' of U.S. Military

*NC2504061295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is the 15th anniversary of the defeat of the U.S. military aggression on the Tabas Desert. In the early hours of a day like today, aggressive U.S. forces suffered a disgraceful defeat at a time when they faced no defensive force. They had to leave their equipment and the burnt bodies of their soldiers and flee.

The Tabas incident was like a miracle in this era—a miracle in which the U.S. satanic idol was broken with the hands and efforts of the great satan itself. Facts show that the preparations for the military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and for the violation of the legitimate sovereignty of a great nation, as well as for trampling on international laws, were made by the U.S. statesmen themselves and that they alone were to blame for this disgraceful defeat.

On 5 Ordibehesht 1359 [25 April 1980], President Carter ordered a military operation, which, according to high-ranking U.S. statesmen, showed U.S. strategic weakness and instability regarding Iran. The U.S. servicemen, numbering 90 commandos, using helicopters and planes, intended to infiltrate Iranian territory and rescue the spies who were being held hostage. But despite all the military and security measures, the plan failed in its initial stages and eight U.S. commandos were killed as the aggressive military left Iran. Afterward Carter appeared on television and sadly announced his plan had failed.

Reaction to the failure was strong in the West's political and propaganda circles, because it again proved that the United States always acted shortsightedly toward the Islamic Revolution and the just demands of the Iranian people and that it preferred a hostile and military approach over a correct understanding and acceptance of the realities of the Islamic Revolution. Some political analysts also interpreted this defeated attempt within the framework of U.S. domestic issues, and considered that Carter's attempt, carried out by ignoring the advice of high-ranking military officials, was aimed at regaining lost prestige regarding the Islamic Revolution and at making up for the feeling of defeat with the victory of this revolution.

What can be learned as a lesson from this great miracle today is, first, the heavy punishment the great satan suffered in this incident. The drunken U.S. giant who, 15 years ago, considered the world to be its own arena, has been defeated and humiliated now and needs the help of others, even to carry out the smallest profit- seeking effort. The second and most important lesson learned from the Tabas miracle is that no element can prepare the grounds for its defeat better than the satan itself. The problem of the great satan and the new U.S. civilization lies within itself, and the Tabas incident—like a historic document that will live on forever—shows that the U.S. aggressor is defeated, even if there is no defensive force confronting it.

The decline of the great satan since the peak of its mischief in the first years of the eighties clearly shows the disintegration of U.S. civilization. Incidents today offer more serious and visible proof of this disintegration.

## Rafsanjani's Statement on U.S. 'Threats' Viewed

*NC2404113595 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Apr 95 p 2*

[First of a two-part unattributed commentary: "About the President's Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's recent statement concerning the not-so-very-new U.S. policy on Iran has given us an opportunity to once again assess the objectives of the United States in Iran and how to confront these objectives.

1. For the past four years there have been some who have believed in and paid lip service to the cliche that Iran's problems could be solved by establishing relations with the United States and by solving bilateral problems. Apparently this is an extremely attractive interpretation which has became even more attractive with the advent of the policies of economic adjustment and privatization. Also, it was doubly effective in the effort to eliminate that group which opposed relations with the United States from the political scene; and it was this that gave the foreign press, about which some people have recently been complaining, the initial fuel to put its propaganda machinery into action. At home too, some individuals have consciously welcomed this idea, while the majority unknowingly preferred to remain silent—which was tantamount to approval.

We saw how an obtrusive group was eliminated in the process. But the United States did not keep its thousand-and-one promises; and the Americans left without even a thank you for their hostages in Lebanon, who had been handed over to them safe and sound! And even though no other problems, as such, were created for the United States, it not only did not decrease its pressures, but even increased them. (We will discuss the reasons for this later in this article).

Some of the groups who saw that these cliches had helped them took another step and put forth more practical proposals on how to surrender to the United States. But since their main effort concentrated on how to hide these proposals under surgical masks, they forgot to choose rational and acceptable arguments to back up their proposals. They also offered no specific examples of how similar proposals had been proven to be effective in the post-World War II era. The only proposals that they put forth were on compromises which, if implemented, would have led to a road of no return.

2. From the very start, this interpretation was a mere cliche since the intention was to psychologically sway the public's mind. This is because in a society that is already facing quite a few problems, people are not looking for complicated analyses; everyone seeks an explanation in the form of a simple cliche—cliches such as: all problems should be blamed on a specific person or group, etc. This

mode of thought gives people peace of mind. But even if people accept simplistic explanations, it does not last long because cliches are written in invisible ink which vanishes once their objectives are achieved. But the problems remain, while new cliches in praise of the victor are introduced.

The purpose of one rationalizations is to convince us that all problems stem from inside our country, that all solutions can be found outside the country, that all these problems can be solved only by the hands of Uncle Sam, and that we too can hold talks and carry out transactions with them. The first effect of this hackneyed claim is to negate the certainties that exist inside the country and to sweep problems under the carpet that were initially created by people with such ideas. The second effect of this line of reasoning is that it emphasizes the U.S. new world order, which holds that nothing can be accomplished in the world unless the United States wants it to—a claim the other Western countries have not yet accepted and which has been increasingly losing its luster in the past few years. The third effect is to disregard the realities of international relations, which have the final say in relations between two strong countries, since negotiations and transactions that are not based on a relative power balance are doomed to end in the defeat of the weaker country.

## Further on Rafsanjani's Statement

*NC2404154295 Tehran SALAM in Persian 18 Apr 95 p 2*

[Second and last part of an unattributed commentary entitled "About the President's Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 3. The U.S. objective in Iran is, first and foremost, to belittle the Islamic Revolution, Iran, and the Iranians. When this objective is fulfilled, its other interests will automatically be ensured. U.S. objectives are relatively different from the objectives of Europe in Iran and in the world because the United States supports unilateral relations based on power and hegemony. Such relations can be established and can continue only when the other side is psychologically ready to accept hegemony, and this can be achieved only when the other side is belittled. But since Europe and the other Western countries genuinely lack the ability to exercise hegemonistic relations, belittling the other side is not a prerequisite in their policies.

This U.S. objective is not limited to the present and to the post-revolution era. The same applied before the revolution too, as it also applied to all countries—even big countries like China and the Soviet Union. Could the 28 Mordad coup [the 19 August 1953 coup against Mosaddeq, father of Iran's oil nationalization] be described as anything other than the belittling of the Iranian people's national determination? Was the outcome of the coup anything but this? Did the United States not treat the shah humiliatingly as its obedient ally? Did the United States not belittle China in the problems of China and in the Tiananmen Square incidents? Has it not belittled Russia during the past few years, so much so that many Russian politicians have raised their voice in protest?

But the U.S. intention to belittle our nation and country naturally multiplied after the revolution because the wounds that it received from the blows that this revolution inflicted on it have not yet healed, even if these wounds would have been healable. Also, in the U.S. new world order, the need for stifling independent cries is felt even more by the Americans.

4. The question may arise as to why the United States' anti-Iranian policies have further intensified in recent months. We never believe that our reconstruction process has been so spectacular that it has further enraged the United States. Only a naive person would make such an allegation.

As has been said, there is no place for ethics in international relations, and talks and negotiations are only used as a cover-up for flaunting power and strength. Thus, when a country carries out an onslaught—no matter what type—it is at least concluded, either wrongly or rightly, that the other side will face certain conditions that will compel it to retreat before the onslaught. For example, the Americans may think that Iran's foreign debts, which constitute one of the major problems under the current conditions in our country, have placed us in such a weak position that their propaganda can force us to surrender.

5. But despite this problem and the other problems that our country is facing, we have an extremely high capability of confronting any type of foreign pressure, on the condition that we display a serious and genuine determination to do so and also accept any consequences—consequences which can only be good. This determination should at least envisage the following:

A. Since the U.S. objective is to exercise hegemony over the entire society and to belittle everyone—something which naturally an independent and revolutionary nation does not accept—something should be done for all the people who love and are committed to this land, this revolution, and this culture so that they will feel a sense of participation and their political identity inside the country will be strengthened. Any action which is contrary to this will naturally harm national harmony and the feeling of a common identity and will further weaken society's weak point.

B. The country's economic situation should develop into one which will not show that it is vulnerable vis-a-vis the United States. And the way to do this is definitely by decreasing the volume of foreign debts. Naturally the repercussions of this policy may be difficult.

C. Despite U.S. pressures, we should maintain our peaceful foreign policy toward all those countries that we have recognized, and in this midst, we should do our best to separate the accounts of Europe and Japan from the United States. This will depend on the extent of their support for independent countries, specifically Iran, as well as if they will separate their accounts from the United States. None of these are tantamount to extremism in (?our foreign) policy.

What is of paramount importance is to (?show that there is a red alert for our interests) and our foreign policy. [Words indistinct] China's interest and insistence [words indistinct] and Formosa as a [words indistinct] demand has been accepted by other countries and no one [words indistinct] to encourage the Chinese Government to solve [words indistinct] the United States at the price of neglecting the Formosa islands or sovereignty over Hong Kong. We should show that we too have a recognized red alert in our foreign relations which should be observed by the other countries, and that if we do not make such delineations and safeguard our stances, all of our bastions will crumble one after the other.

We hope that the esteemed president's statement will be a good prologue to the adoption of practical steps to increase the country's ability in confronting the United States and in resisting its onslaught.

### 'Serious Threat' To U.S. Regional Policies Viewed

*NC2104120695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Apr 95 p 12*

[Commentary by Heshmat Falahatpisheh: "The U.S. Defensive Posture Against Russia" ]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days after the publication of rumors of threats of a break in nuclear cooperation between the United States and Russia in THE NEW YORK TIMES, Al Gore, Clinton's vice president, rejected them and said that this would be to the detriment of the United States.

In fact, the latest stance of Al Gore is not the rebuttal of a report but a sort of retreat from the stance that had been put forth earlier as a "given" in U.S. foreign policy in the climate of the international system. However, due to a divergence with the climate, the White House was forced to rectify and revamp it within another "given." This is because the aforesaid rumor was disseminated by some of the Washington officials and continues to be changed by higher level echelons. All kinds of reversals to the initial decision will result in adverse international circumstances for the U.S. decisionmaking system.

The accord that Washington had threatened to annul was the 22-year-old nuclear cooperation accord with Moscow, which ends in the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May]. Washington had announced this threat in connection with its pressure on Russia for the abrogation of a billion-dollar nuclear accord with Iran. Some of the factors that may have had an effect on Washington's reneging on the above stance are:

1. Despite the inclination by the Yeltsin government to renew the above accord, some of the deputies of the state Duma, members of the nationalist and militarist factions, had displayed their opposition to such a decision by the government. According to this group, Washington had gained a dual advantage from this nuclear cooperation accord. On the one hand, smaller dependent nuclear powers had emerged in the region that were becoming stronger and on the other, Russia was deprived of the benefit of nuclear cooperation with smaller countries for mainly political reasons, even in peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

The critical conditions in Russia after the collapse of the former Soviet Union extended the U.S. stomping ground in this field. The recent uproar by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran and the pressure on Russia to refrain from cooperation in completing the Bushehr nuclear power plant is a clear manifestation of this inequitable maneuver. [preceding word in English]

2. On a more general level, Russia's opting out of the NATO Partners for Peace accord and the more harsh and mistrustful stance of its officials toward U.S. objectives and actions were especially reflected in Yeltsin's remarks in the CSCE session; the reports of reactivating Russian nuclear tests can be considered at the core of Russia's segregation from Washington after its early hasty error in cooperating with it.

The new game is supported by the nationalists, former communists, and a vast stratum of militarists, even liberalists [preceding word in English] who have realized their mistake.

There is no doubt that if the United States wants, it can again talk to Russia as the Big Brother or in the future it will witness more defeats of its plans which have been compiled by the formulators of Washington's foreign policy.

3. The threats of ending nuclear cooperation are connected with the pressures on Russia to persuade it to refrain from its nuclear cooperation with Iran, though it cannot clearly be considered the last such ploy aimed at pressuring Russia. However, when the above threat did not change the stance of Russia on cooperation with Iran, the White House sought to retreat on its stance. While the above pressure served to bring the positions of Iran and Russia even closer, it also generated a convergence between Iran and Russia, not only in the field of nuclear technology, but also in all other regional issues. Such a convergence can make the U.S. policies face a serious threat in the Middle East and Central Asian region and the Caucasus.

Accordingly, the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry regarding the oil agreement of Azerbaijan with the oil consortium—of which the United States holds the maximum shares and is named as the agreement of the century—can be viewed in this context.

After its exit from the aforementioned agreement, Iran stated that the legal status of the Caspian Sea has not been defined and therefore all kinds of international agreements in this region would be invalid.

This position is closer to Moscow's former position based on the undefined legal status of the Caspian Sea and can annul all kinds of investment by foreign companies and governments in the region in the agreement of the century.

### Commentary Discusses Turkey's Incursion Into Iraq

*NC2104193395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 13 Apr 95 p 4*

[Unattributed commentary: "Dimensions of the Latest Turkish Military Incursion Into Northern Iraq"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In light of the Turkish leadership's dream of becoming a full-fledged member of the European Union—and the necessity of removing perceived and real obstacles which Turkish leaders think keeps their country from this goal—the latest Turkish military invasion into northern Iraqi territory seems quite predictable in retrospect.

By going into northern Iraq to seek and destroy the camps of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), the Turkish leadership wishes to remove one such obstacle.

Alas, the military invasion has only served to immensely exacerbate a long-simmering crisis, and added new dimensions to an already difficult situation.

In the early 1980's Iraq and Turkey signed an agreement, allowing the two neighbors to dispatch military forces, subject to liberal limitations on location and duration, on search and destroy missions aimed at opposition forces in each other's territories.

The Turkish leadership claims that the current void of sovereignty over the territory in northern Iraq, which the PKK guerrillas use to stage hit-and-run attacks into southwestern Turkey, compelled their military action.

In ordering the incursion, the Turkish leadership seems to have chosen one of two options:

A) The long-sought elimination of Kurdish guerrillas as a factor in Turkish policy, plans, and ambitions in this strategic, oil-rich region.

It is not a secret to even the most causal observers of the region's politics that the oil-rich Mosul region in northern Iraq is the great prize the Turks seek among other things.

The closing of the pipeline delivering Iraqi crude oil through Turkey to tankers in the Black Sea since the Persian Gulf War, and the shut-down of most commerce between the two countries in accordance with the UN-imposed sanctions has hit the Turks hard in the pocketbook and has damaged their influence over events in the political realm as well.

It is with these factors in mind that the government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller decided on a quick military solution to barriers impeding trade with Iraq.

Some 35 kilometers of the joint oil pipeline runs through the disputed Kurdish territory and is outside effective Iraqi jurisdiction or control. In their move into northern Iraq, the Turks also want to insure uninterrupted transit of oil through the pipeline, and are in effect picking up where the Iraqis have had to leave off.

B) These aims and policies, however, do not reconcile themselves with the long-coveted membership in the European Union.

Belgium, Denmark, France, and Spain have been rather vociferous in their objections to the Turkish move in the last few days. The Germans have gone beyond words and have suspended DM150 million in military aid to Ankara, pending further decision. The aid was to take the form of a subsidy to a German firm building two frigates for the Turkish Navy.

The question facing the Ciller regime therefore is, which is a more vital interest:

Peace and some semblance of normalcy in relations with the Kurds, and perhaps a quick realization of the dream of membership in the European Union?

Or, a resolution—albeit a bloody one—to the Kurdish crisis through the use of arms, and a deal with Iraq over the oil in northern Iraq?

With these two mutually exclusive interests driving current Turkish policy, it is not surprising that in one breath the Turkish leaders tell the world they might keep their military forces in northern Iraq for a long time, while in another, their foreign minister announces a pull-back "as soon as conditions allow".

So it seems that regardless of a cessation in operations against the Kurds in northern Iraq, the Turkish leadership is bent on preparing world public opinion, especially that of the Europeans, for a relatively quick resolution to the Kurdish crisis and the possible destruction of the PKK as a viable opposition force.

A Turkish withdrawal from Iraqi territory is certain to be well- received in Europe, perhaps even helping the Turks to get one step closer to their dream of joining the European Union. It is likely to help avert Turkey and Iraq from plunging into a catastrophe which might haunt their borders for years to come.

A fair, durable, and far-sighted agreement by all concerned, will provide the political framework for peace and stability in that tortured land, and an end to the suffering which the Kurds of northern Iraq and Southwest Turkey have had to endure for much of their contemporary history.

An escalation or continuation of the hostilities between the Turks and the Kurds is sure to have tragic consequences for the Kurds, as well as the Turks, who will have to grapple with the unforeseen consequences of their military being tasked to find a solution to a mostly political crisis.

It is also likely to affect Kurds living elsewhere in the region who are witnessing yet another bloodletting involving their kith and kin.

## New Developments on Managing Hospitals Detailed

*95LA0181A Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 6*

[FBIS Translated Text] As our esteemed readers know, under the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget, the hospitals will become autonomous in order to save on the government's general expenses. Although the budget debates have already ended and the above provision has been passed, we are presenting a statement we received recently from the Iran Islamic Society of Physicians, which will, God willing, be instrumental.

Statement from the Iran Islamic Society of Physicians concerning the elimination of the Treatment Row (30303) from the current expenses of the Ministry of Health in the 1374 Budget and the costs of self- sufficiency and autonomy for government hospitals:

—The numbers and figures published from the 1374 Budget show a sharp reduction on Row 30303 pertaining to current treatment expenses in the budget of the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education, and the elimination (almost) of the treatment program in this bill.

Thus, instead of collecting current expense credits from the government, government hospitals will operate with earned revenues and become "autonomous." At a press conference, the deputy minister of health care for treatment gave the good news to the people of the Islamic homeland that hospitals lacking the ability to generate revenue will close. It is being said that the first group of hospitals to be closed and the guidelines for autonomy have been announced by the Ministry of Health and will be mandatory as of the first of next year [21 March 1995].

These things are happening at a time when, despite the emphasis on the privatization and autonomy of government hospitals by the Plan and Budget Organization and the former managers of the Ministry of Health, the Majles has already declared its firm opposition to this by eliminating the articles on the privatization of treatment in the Universal Health Insurance Bill.

The simultaneous implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Bill and the provision of coverage for oppressed and rural people to reduce the costs of such extensive privatization has been given as a reason for this. On the basis of the Second Five-Year Plan Bill, however, the Universal Insurance Law will be implemented gradually over the five years so that at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the people will be completely covered by insurance. Naturally, any kind of replacement of treatment budgets with insurance credits must be done gradually during the five years.

It is clear that, as long as uninsured people have not been covered and the appropriate insurance booklets have not been issued, suddenly eliminating treatment credits and making the government hospitals autonomous as provided in the 1374 Budget will not meet most of the treatment needs of rural and oppressed people and those without insurance

When the hospitals need revenues to meet their daily expenses and even to pay the wages and salaries of personnel, they will inevitably stop giving discounts or free treatment of any kind (according to some hospital presidents, the order has also been issued to stop hospital assistance programs). In this way disease will go untreated in society, and patients will be abandoned and left with no place to go.

The extensive costs of the spread of infectious and chronic diseases in society and the social and economic costs of disabilities and early deaths, should such things occur, will be predictable and irreparable in the coming years

The Iran Islamic Society of Physicians, noting the economic value of health and the economic and social damage caused by the costs of chronic illness and the disability and deaths of society's active work force due to the failure to provide timely treatment, has already declared clearly that economizing on the costs of health care and treatment in society will not reduce expenses. Instead, it will do irreparable damage to public health. Therefore, when diseases become chronic, the losses are disabilities and families without providers.

When treatment services are being made autonomous and government support for this is being eliminated, this doubt becomes stronger, and one must ask why and how it is that the responsibility for providing needed health care and treatment to the public is being forgotten when these duties are clearly given to the government of the Islamic Republic in the Constitution.

In closing the hospitals that are unable to generate revenues, are the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education acting on their treatment and health care duties?

It should be remembered that the volume of government investment in health care in other countries is 6.8 percent of the gross national product [GNP] in Canada, 4.2 percent in England, 7.9 percent in Sweden, 5.6

percent in the United States, 5 percent in Hungary, 5 percent in Czechoslovakia, and 5.4 percent in Algeria.

Yet, on the basis of the Book of Iran's National Accounts, this share was only 1.9 percent of the Islamic Republic of Iran's GNP during the last six years. Under such circumstances, should not the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education try to correct this percentage and increase this portion of the nation's economy? Isn't this policy of making services autonomous and reducing the government's share and responsibility in meeting society's health care and treatment costs just a way of hiding the problem?

Hospitals that do not have the revenue to maintain all their beds will have to retire some of their bed capacity. For example, a large 800-bed hospital in Tehran plans to retire 500 of its beds due to its inability to get the required budget from its allocated revenues. If we consider the cost of constructing one hospital bed to be 12 million tumans based on the Plan and Budget Organization's list of prices, this will mean retiring six billion tumans in investments. Who will answer for this waste of capital?

Under these circumstances, eliminating the current expense credits for hospitals given on Row 30303 for treatment services in the 1374 Budget Bill will make the market for treatment more chaotic and will double the deprivation of needed treatment services for oppressed people.

It is to be noted that, on the basis of the report from the Central Bank given in the newspaper KEYHAN on 6/19/1373 [10 September 1994], the price indicator for consumer goods and services in the month of Tir 1372 [22 June-22 July 1993] increased 1.5 percent over the previous month and 42 percent compared to the same month the previous year. At the same time, the indicators for the health care and treatment group grew 10.8 percent from the previous month and 54.5 percent compared to the same month the previous year.

Likewise, based on a report on various costs in a basket of family expenses, the 15 health care and treatment costs weighed in heavily at 3.94 percent of the costs in the basket of urban family expenses. Under these circumstances, the elimination of current expense credits for treatment in the government hospitals will lead to the deprivation of needed treatment services for a large group of low- income people (who are normally considered recipients of pensions from Imam Khomeyni's (peace be upon him) Aid Committee). This in turn will cause disease to remain in society and result in an increase in infectious, hard to treat diseases, handicaps, and early disabilities. Consequently, there will be significant damage to the nation's economy.

On the other hand, making teaching hospitals self-sufficient will be a fatal blow to the nation's fragile medical training system. Previously the medical training system suffered the damage of consolidating the medical universities within the former Ministry of Health, and it still has not recovered from the consolidation of the health care and treatment networks with the medical science colleges and universities and from the organizational changes in the Ministry of Health Care. Likewise, the countless and damaging working projects of various kinds, fee for service, and continuous privatization measures have exacerbated the endless competition to earn revenues at the teaching hospitals and have severely undermined the training of students, interns, and residents.

Superficial self-sufficiency and linking all equipment, administrative and hospital personnel, and worker wage and salary expenses to revenue creation have eliminated what little motivation to teach there was in the hospitals and are taking medical training units away from their primary mission.

Once again, with reference to Articles 4 and 29 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, the Iran Islamic Society of Physicians emphasizes that making government hospitals autonomous (which has no legal justification and which has also been deleted from the Universal Insurance Law) will do irreparable damage to the nation's educational and treatment system. This matter is fundamental to the lawful responsibilities of the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education.

Likewise, depriving the weak and indigent classes necessary and needed treatment, not accepting low-income patients in the autonomous hospitals, and failing to treat emergency patients and victims of various accidents is completely at odds with medical ethics.

Providing all or part of the credits for this sector in the rows pertaining to the Universal Insurance Organization and in the Social Security Section will not solve this problem either because insurance coverage in the nation's various regions is not at all complete. All of rural society and an important part of the self- employed, merchants, and those working in free-lance professions are without insurance coverage of any kind. Insurance services are not usually provided to the above classes in the rural areas, in deprived provinces, or in the municipalities.

Those living in these regions must pay the cash price for the services they need. In view of the high costs of treatment, the increases in the prices for drugs, and also the rumors about doubling the tariffs on treatment services next year, the people in the municipalities and deprived regions will be effectively without the needed treatment services.

Under these circumstances, the hospitals in these regions will be faced with a lack of revenues. Initially they will have to close some of the non-revenue-generating wards (such as internal medicine, infections, pediatrics, and others). Then after that they will be faced with the threat of closure and complete inactivity. The credits allocated to the Health Care Insurance Organization have also remained unspent and have effectively been taken over by the hospitals with the ability to provide specialist services and expensive treatment.

Since hospitals like this are only in Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Tabriz, and several other large cities, the aforementioned budget will effectively go to the large cities. This will be a violation of social justice and the alleviation of deprivation, which are among the respected government's programs.

Consequently, the most painful social phenomenon will appear: more profit for the prosperous and comfortable classes and the wealthy and more deprivation of treatment services for the poor and the oppressed.

On the other hand, if Row 30303 for the hospitals and treatment units is eliminated, the province and municipal treatment units will be forced to spend allocated revenues. Based on the tables for these revenues, for example, the hospitals under the auspices of the Tehran College of Medical Sciences will have to collect 13 billion tumans from the public, Central Province will have to collect 2.4 billion tumans, Hamadan will have to collect 2.5 billion tumans, Bushehr will have to collect 1.1 billion tumans, Kordestan will have to collect 1.7 billion tumans, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad will need 700 million tumans, and 123.5 billion tumans will have to be collected for all the government hospitals combined. Will the deprived people of these regions be able to make such payments (without insurance support in the year 1374)?

If these funds are not paid, the aforementioned hospitals will be condemned to closure and dissolution and all the physical capital and manpower in these regions will be left hanging. Can the respected officials of the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Health Care call this process "improving management," "economizing on credit allocations," or "making treatment units economical"?

The Iran Islamic Society of Physicians directs the attention of the respected Majles deputies—especially those from the deprived municipalities and regions—to these important areas of concern. It demands structural reform in the budget-making process and also in the procedure for allocating credits, and it demands a prohibition on the sudden and sweeping deletion of the Budget Treatment Row 30303 from the credits of the Health Care and Treatment Section of the 1374 Budget Law.

## Statement on Dismantling of Satellite Dishes

*LD2204100695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Satellite receivers and equipment will be dismantled as from this morning throughout the country. According to a report by the Central News Unit, in a statement, the Interior Ministry announces: The owners of unauthorized satellite receivers who disband them voluntarily will be able to keep their satellite receivers and equipment in their homes.

The statement also says: Only members of the Law Enforcement Forces carrying a court order, Law Enforcement Forces licences and special identification cards have the authority to enter houses that have not removed unauthorized satellite receivers and equipment.

## Over 90 Percent Dismantled

*ld2204103995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The law banning the use of satellite receivers came into force today. Over 80 percent of satellite owners, especially in Greater Tehran, have begun dismantling their equipment voluntarily. Our correspondent interviewed Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati[-Jahromi] on the implementation of this law. We draw your attention to this report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Besharati, last Monday [17 April] you announced that as from Saturday, today, the owners of satellite receivers would be dealt with according to the law. You also gave dish owners this period to begin dismantling their equipment. To what extent have the people cooperated today, which is the first day of the implementation of the law? What have they done so far to dismantle their equipment?

[Besharati] As our dear people know, on Monday 28 Farvardin [17 April], the law banning the use of satellite equipment was officially announced and we gave five days for the people to undertake the dismantling of the receivers. After this period, the law enforcement forces will undertake the task of dismantling the equipment.

In that interview we had predicted that after the official announcement of this law, 80 percent of people would undertake the dismantling of the equipment voluntarily. According to latest reports, today over 90 percent of satellite owners have begun dismantling their receivers. This is a very worthy act, which illustrates the coordination of the people with the government and their respect for the values and laws of the country.

Here, I want to thank the brave, aware, and alert people of our country.

[Correspondent] Is the keeping of this type of equipment in houses banned or not? How will the law enforcement forces respond to this?

[Besharati] Keeping these dishes is OK at this stage. In other words, if the people themselves have dismantled their satellite dishes to keep them in their houses, we even praise and thank them. The law enforcement forces will not bother them.

We are more concerned, and we stress that this type of equipment is not used. Our people, who have an understanding of all the issues and who are aware of current regional and world issues, have easily realized what is at stake and have risen up in support of the government. They have begun dismantling the dishes voluntarily.

We praise and thank our great people. [end recording]

### Paper Comments on Dismantling

*LD2304135795 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 23 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—The English language daily IRAN NEWS on Sunday [23 April] said that though the Majlis ban on satellite was binding, a consideration was apt here and that was as the arm of the law, the law enforcement forces, during confiscation operations should preclude any abuses by opportunist elements since any illegal move on the part of the latter might bring about unfavorable consequences.

However, IRAN NEWS said, "some programs aired by the satellites are undoubtedly educational and positive, and so Iranian TV channels should record and broadcast them."

The daily in its editorial pointed to the possibility of appearing of new antenna and receivers that could be easily camouflaged in the market and said that "in such a case, great amounts of foreign currency will be funnelled abroad just as was done prior to the ban."

"With the ban on the use of satellite dishes being in force, those who watched satellite programs will now turn to the domestic radio and television networks, and so these networks shoulder the momentous task of changing methods of propagation and news dispatch, making the programs more attractive and improving future plans and programs."

It further maintained that "given the prevalent use of satellite dishes, one must acknowledge that in recent years the anticipated achievements were not duly made in tandem with the country's educational and training goals.

"This is, of course, due to the inadequate cultural upbringing of some families which have failed to acquaint their children with the sound cultural values of the society and make them resistant to inroads of alien cultures."

The editorial concluded by saying that "at any rate, the Iranian people welcome the recent ban, since it prevents the collapse of their native culture, but they call on the cultural officialdom to reform their policies, pay more heed to the community's values, avoid a uni-directional attitude toward satellite dishes, and pay some attention to other parameters that could also lead to cultural collapse in the country."

## Pakistan

### Bangladesh Prime Minister Zia Arrives for Visit

*BK2404154795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A warm welcome was accorded to the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, when she arrived in Islamabad this afternoon [24 April] on a two-day official visit to Pakistan. She was received at the airport by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. A contingent drawn from the three services presented a guard of honor to the distinguished guest. She reviewed it and took the salute. The interservices band played national anthems of the two countries and a 19-gun salute also boomed out. Later, she was introduced to a large line of VIP's, including the speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani; federal ministers; and diplomats.

### Holds Talks With Bhutto, Leghari

*BK2504020395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Bangladesh counterpart, Begum Khaleda Zia, held an hour of formal talks in Islamabad this afternoon. They were assisted during the talks by the foreign ministers and senior officials of the two countries. Earlier, the two prime ministers held talks for about 20 minutes without aides.

At the formal talks, while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the goals of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan will be represented at the highest level at the upcoming SAARC summit conference. She appreciated the Bangladesh prime minister's sagacious leadership and her efforts to set the direction of the SAARC over the past one and a half years. Apprising her Bangladesh counterpart of the atrocities being committed in occupied Kashmir, Benazir Bhutto stressed the need for a solution to the problem in occupied Kashmir. The two leaders exchanged views on various issues pertaining to the programs of SAARC and the women's conference to be held in Beijing. Both countries stressed the need for cooperation among SAARC members to prevent the smuggling of women and children.

Earlier, the Bangladesh prime minister called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the President House. As the current chairperson of SAARC, Begum Khaleda Zia extended a formal invitation to the president to attend the forthcoming SAARC summit conference in New Delhi during the first week of next month.

President Leghari confirmed that he will lead the Pakistani delegation to the summit conference. Exchanging views on matters of mutual interest, the two leaders agreed to enhance economic cooperation in conventional and other sectors, including such Pakistani goods as power plants, tractors, and diesel engines.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman; Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; and Ghulam Mustafa Khar, federal minister for water and power, were also present on the occasion.

### Attends Banquet With Bhutto

*BK2504091895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed concern and anguish at the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Speaking at a banquet she hosted in honor of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Islamabad last night [24 April], she said the unresolved dispute over Kashmir remains the core issue between India and Pakistan. The resolution of this problem would have widespread positive repercussions for the countries of the South Asian subcontinent.

On the future role of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], the prime minister assured her Bangladesh counterpart that Pakistan wants to consolidate SAARC because it believes in regional cooperation. Expressing satisfaction with Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, she noted that there has been steady expansion in this field. The two countries are working together for regional peace and security and are seeking good relations among the countries of South Asia. Their relationship has given the people a common regional identity and their membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Commonwealth has enabled them to stand shoulder-to-shoulder while striving to attain common goals. The prime minister said both Pakistan and Bangladesh are against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region and strongly support the principles of sovereign equality, independence, and territorial integrity of all states. Neither believes in the use of force in international relations.

In her speech, Bangladesh Prime Minister Begam Khaleda Zia said SAARC has started to address social and economic issues in the region such as poverty alleviation and ending trade restrictions. She said the SAARC countries must make progress on these issues; they cannot lag behind while the rest of the world moves ahead. She acknowledged Pakistan's support for the establishment of SAARC and expressed happiness that it has not wavered in advancing the process of regional cooperation. Referring to Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, Begum Khaleda Zia reiterated that despite having close and friendly relations, bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries are not up to the mark. They should get together to promote trade and commerce. The entrepreneurs of the two countries should exploit economic opportunities in the two countries for the benefit of their people. Referring to some unresolved problems between Bangladesh and Pakistan, she expressed confidence that these can be resolved given the political will and the spirit of friendship and understanding that prevails in their relationship.

## Editorial Criticizes Rafsanjani Remarks on Kashmir

*BK2304070195 Lahore JANG in Urdu 20 Apr 95 p 3*

[Editorial: "Iran's New Stand on Kashmir and Regional Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview to Iranian newspapers before visiting India, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the present situation in Kashmir is unacceptable and a solution to the problem should be found which is acceptable to all parties. The Iranian president said that the Kashmir issue is the biggest hurdle to an agreement on regional cooperation and it is also the real cause of the deteriorating relations between South Asian countries. Later, speaking at a Shiite shrine in Lucknow while visiting India, the Iranian president said that India's security and integrity will not be allowed to be impaired by raising the Kashmir dispute. He added that Iran-India friendship will be boosted in the days to come.

Most of the Iranian president's remarks relating to a solution to the Kashmir issue not only reflect a deviation from Iran's traditional stand on an issue that is most important, delicate and sensitive to Pakistan, but they do not comply with Pakistan's interests as well. To say that a solution to the Kashmir issue should be sought that is acceptable to all is tantamount to further complicating the issue and putting it in the cold storage instead of making fruitful efforts in this regard. India had pledged to the world fraternity that it would grant the Kashmiris the right to self-determination to enable them to decide whether to accede to Pakistan or India, but it broke the promise. A majority of the Kashmiri freedom fighters are combating the 600,000-strong Indian forces to accomplish that objective. Pakistan too is adhered to that position. However, India is not only unwilling to accept this, it is asking Pakistan to hand over Azad Kashmir to it and thus bring an end to the issue. According to India, this is an effective solution of the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan and the people of Kashmir can never agree to the Indian stand. Therefore, finding a solution acceptable to all the three parties is utterly impossible. The people of Kashmir are the principal and most important party to this dispute. If a solution is imposed against their will, then a permanent and durable peace can never be established in this region. The Kashmiri freedom fighters by their struggle—which inspires people to have faith in God—against the 600,000 Indian soldiers have foiled the Indian attempt to impose a solution on them by declaring occupied Kashmir as one of its states and holding a farce of elections there. The Iranian president is right in saying that the Kashmir dispute is the real cause of the deteriorating relations among South Asian countries. However, the responsibility for removing this malady lies with India.

The Iranian president's remarks that India's security and integrity will not be allowed to be impaired by raising the Kashmir issue might be appropriate for India and its friends; however, the countries of this region that are being affected by India's manner of action and attitude, especially Pakistan, cannot agree with the Iranian president's line of thinking and the stand of the Indian rulers. If India's behavior is harming Pakistan's security and integrity, then Pakistan has the right to protect its security and integrity. If secessionist movements are going on inside India, then it is the result of the Indian rulers' narrow-mindedness, their religious and political prejudice, and their usurpation of the rights of non-Hindu minorities. In particular, the freedom movements of Khalistan, Nagaland and Gurkhaland are the products of the Indian rulers' prejudice. The issue of the freedom of the Kashmiri people is, however, an outcome of the partition of the subcontinent, because the provinces were then given the choice to accede either to Pakistan or India. Kashmir's accession to Pakistan seems a natural choice in view of their religious, historical, political, and economic relations in addition to their geographical proximity. If raising the Kashmir dispute causes harm to the security and integrity of India, then the Indian claim over and occupation of Kashmir is badly affecting Pakistan's security and integrity as well, because our leader Jinnah had described Kashmir as the blood vein of Pakistan.

The Iranian president's visit to India seems to have greatly improved the relations between the two countries in various sectors of life. Iran has also allowed India the passage to Central Asia to do business. Every country has the right to conclude agreements with others to meet its business interests. Just as Iran wants to supply gas to India through Pakistan, so, similarly, Pakistan may in future seek transit facilities from Iran. However, the thing we should ponder is why we are drifting away from two of our extremely sincere and dependable friends—we mean the People's Republic of China and Iran, countries with which our relations are now cool. Last year, it was on Iran's request that Pakistan did not present the resolution at the human rights commission against Indian atrocities in Kashmir and the violation of the Kashmiris' human rights.

Iran and the PRC are two of Pakistan's sincere friends, which stood by Pakistan in all its good or bad days. Lately, a sort of tension prevails in Pakistan's relations with these countries. Given the development of relations in various sectors between India, China, and Iran in recent times, it will not be incorrect to infer that Pakistan's relations with Iran and the PRC are becoming cool. If such a situation continues, then Pakistan will be left all alone, thus making itself an easy prey to Indian aggression. It is the duty of the leaders of Pakistan to take care of its interests in view of the developments in this region and they should not hesitate to remove the obstacles to relations with the two countries.

### Commentary Downplays Threat From Iran-India Ties

*BK2304100695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "Pak-Iran relations"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A foreign office spokesman yesterday [22 April] told newsmen that the Iranian President's visit to India will not affect relations between Islamabad and Tehran since they are based on common cultural and ideological foundations. They are time-tested and have solidity which transcends such state visits, he added. The spokesman, referring to the unambiguous comments on Kashmir by President Rafsanjani in New Delhi said that these indicate that Iran has not altered its stance on the issue adding that the two countries also share views on other major regional and global concerns. It is pertinent to mention that there has been considerable unease in Pakistan at public level over the growing ties between Tehran and New Delhi. Such is the nature and degree of Indo-Pak hostility that back in 1993 when the Indian Premier went on his Iranian tour, apprehensions among majority in this country were quite discernible. In spite of all this, many people will agree with the basic thesis of our foreign office that the growing Indo- Iranian ties are not at the expense of Pakistan. The fact is that international relations are much more complex than perceived at the grass-roots level. Both India and Iran are in favour of multi-track diplomacy and find it more fruitful to have breadth and diversity in their foreign policy. India as well as Iran see certain advantages in pushing a few notches up in their current ties. Iran is a major Muslim power and has far greater influence with the people of Islamic countries than with their governments. New Delhi can dilute hostility which exists in the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] towards it by embracing Rafsanjani.

A number of other developments have brought the two countries closer. The changing situation in Afghanistan and growing influence of India in Kabul will have weighed considerably with the Iranian President in seeking New Delhi's co-operation for resolving the conflict. As well as that, both countries are keen to exploit opportunities in central Asia; and they have a desire to cooperate in this regard. Iran has agreed in principle to grant transit facilities to the host country. On the economic side, a big prize for Iran would be to sell natural gas to India where the commodity is short supply in return for sophisticated machinery and equipment. All these facts serve to highlight the importance of economic links in the post-cold war era. States with different and even hostile ideologies enter into mutually beneficial arrangements. We need to dissociate and condemn US efforts to damage Iran. So far Islamabad's response to anti-Tehran moves of the West does not go far enough.

Washington's dominance of Islamabad may not produce dramatic break with our traditional allies but it will cause tremendous strains in relations with friendly countries. The imminent danger for Islamabad is that it may be unwittingly sucked into US-Israel-India nexus, and lose its power to act independently. We have no hesitation in saying that the policy of having special relationship with Washington has absolutely no popular support. If there is a poll today on foreign policy, an overwhelming majority of people would prefer special ties with Iran and China and a more assertive attitude towards Washington.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

## *SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION*

**U.S. Government Customers**

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

**Non-Government Customers**

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.